MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

3 NOVEMBER 1982

Iran-Iraq War

Military Activities -- An Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio claimed that Iranian forces have "liberated" more than 300 square km of land occupied by Iraqi forces, including 50 km of strategic border heights in southwestern Iran, and have fired on several kilometers of enemy territory. The communique indicated that Iranian deployment in the strategic heights has enabled Iran to place the road linking north and south Iraq in "serious danger," and that the plain east of the Tigris River from Basra to 'Ali al-Gharbi, including the Zubaydah oil region, is within the Iranian forces' firing range. Another communique reported by Tehran radio affirmed that Iranion oil installations in southwest Iran have been "liberated."

The Iraqi culture and information minister denied that Iraq is fighting in Iranian territory, INA reported. A military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio claimed that Iranian efforts to cross the international borders in the Maysan Governorate area failed and that 4,660 Iranians were killed. The communique added that the Iraqi Air Force completely controlled the battleskies on 2 November. However, a 3 November military communique reported by Baghdad radio stated that operations on the front are confined to artillery exchanges. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn visited the central battle sector on 2 November, INA reported.

Mediation -- In an interview with Tehran radio following a Supreme Defense Council session on 1 November, Majlis Speaker and Khomeyni's representative on the council 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that since Iran has made its conditions known, only those mediators who have something new to say should be accepted in the future. On 2 November Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke in the Majlis, saying in part that "as long as Saddam exists, the word 'peace' should not be used," IRNA reported. He added that the issue of a truce could be brought up once Iran's rights have been met. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn said in Baghdad that his country does not want war, but when it is threatened, it must fight, INA reported.

Lebanon

Government Statement -- A government policy statement, read to the Chamber of Deputies by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and broadcast by Beirut radio, requested the deputies to grant the government exceptional powers until 30 June 1983 to amend, cancel or introduce legislation by decree in a wide range of activities including defense and security. The government would be empowered to reconsider many laws, including those regulating the organization and activities of the public sector and the judiciary. Elsewhere in the statement, Al-Wazzan announced that the government intends to help reconstruct the economy through a 5-year plan and stressed its determination to strengthen the Lebanese Army with "sound organization, sufficient personnel and developed weapons." Reaffirming that the government's immediate goal remains the liberation of Lebanon from the Israeli occupation and the evacuation of all non-Lebanese forces, Al-Wazzan said Lebanon wants to strengthen cordial relations and good neighborly ties with Syria. Palestinians lawfully residing in Lebanon will receive consideration and the right to security and protection under Lebanese law, he added.

Relations With PLO -- President Amin Al-Jumayyil met with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf during his recent visit to Morocco, the Gulf paper AL-KHALIJ reported. The paper also asserted that Al-Jumayyil will shortly meet with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Composition of Multinational Force -- Morocco has "approved in principle" a Lebanese request that Moroccan troops be sent to participate in the multinational force currently operating in Lebanon, KUNA reported citing the Lebanese daily AN-NAHAR. Commenting on President al-Jumayyil's talks with Moroccan King Hassan II, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said the dispatch

of Moroccan forces is under discussion, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. However, high-ranking Israeli officials cited by Jerusalem radio announced that Israel opposes the inclusion of Moroccan units in the multinational force, although it would consider a request for Egyptian participation. Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir likewise told U.S. Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs Morris Draper that Israel will not agree to the inclusion in the multinational force of units from countries that are hostile to Israel or that have no relations with it, the radio reported.

Security Situation -- The multinational force and the Lebanese Army deployed in East Beirut early on 2 November, Beirut radio reported. Clashes continued in the Ash-Shuf mountains the previous day, causing further casualties, the radio noted. A Lebanese Army statement broadcast by the radio accused the IDF of preventing Lebanese Army units from entering the area. However, in a report on the IDF's role in maintaining security in the Ash-Shuf area, Jerusalem radio claimed that the Lebanese Army is in "no hurry" to take over the task of peacemaking between the Druze and Christians from the IDF. Meanwhile, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt sent a message to President al-Jumayyil, calling for cohesion to stop the fighting and to foil the "conspiracy" in the mountain area, Beirut radio reported.

Egypt

Relations With Israel -- President Husni Mubarak said at a news conference in Cairo that the United States considers Israel's building of a hotel in Tabah to be a violation of the peace treaty, Cairo radio reported. Mubarak stated that it would be best to settle the Tabah issue through negotiations in which the United States would participate. He added that it would be a "good sign" if Israel ended the Tabah problem, and then autonomy negotiations on new bases could be resumed. Israeli Foreign Minister Shamir averred that Israel is willing to discuss the Tabah dispute, but said that the issue should not be separated from the other problems, Jerusalem radio reported. President Mubarak earlier told an Egyptian political conference that there is no room for war with Israel, MENA reported.

Elat Envoy -- President Mubarak claimed that there is no connection between the recall of the Egyptian envoy in Elat and the start of the negotiations on Tabah, Cairo radio reported. However, he indicated that Egypt will decide the timing of the envoy's return. ITIM claimed that the Egyptian consul plans to return on 10 November.

'Ismat as-Sadat -- The late Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat's step-brother, 'Ismat as-Sadat, has rejected the charges that he was involved in "illegal activities," AFP reported citing the Egyptian weekly newspaper ASH-SHA'B

PLO

A Palestinian figure close to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has said that the forthcoming Palestine National Council meeting will not be held unless an "overwhelming majority" agrees to support the official PLO decision to delegate Jordanian King Husayn to speak on behalf of the Palestinians, the Gulf paper AL-KHALIJ reported citing "informed sources."

Libya

Following his visit to the DPRK, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi arrived in Yugoslavia on a 2-day official visit, TANJUG reported. Meanwhile, Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland radio announced that Al-Qadhdhafi and DPRK President Kim Il-song signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation that strengthens ties between Libya and the DPRK in political, economic, cultural and military fields.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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'ARAFAT CHAIRS PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

JN021507 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1335 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Tunis, 2 Nov (INA) -- The PLO Executive Committee met here today under Yasir 'Arafat, PLO chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution forces.

The Palestinian News Agency, WAFA, said that the conferees discussed preparations for the convocation of a Palestinian popular conference in the near future. They also assessed the results of Yasir 'Arafat's visit to several Arab and European states.

The Executive Committee, which will resume its meeting late this afternoon, is scheduled to review the situation of the Palestinian people in Lebanon and the occupied territories as well as the situation of the Palestinian forces in the Al-Biqa' Valley and northern Lebanon.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES SOVIET, OTHER MESSAGES

GF021858 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] today received the comrade Soviet ambassador to Tunisia, who conveyed a verbal message from the Soviet leadership to Brother Abu 'Ammar.

Brother Abu 'Ammar asked the Soviet ambassador to convey a verbal message to the Soviet leaders on the latest developments in the area, and the latest Palestinian developments in particular.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also received today Hasan Ibrahim, envoy of King Husayn of Jordan, who conveyed a message to the commander in chief on the Middle East situation and the tasks of the Arab seven-member committee, in order to coordinate stands in view of current events and developments.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also received today the YAR ambassador in Tunis, who conveyed a verbal message from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to Abu 'Ammar in reply to his message that was conveyed by the YAR ambassador.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also received today the Sudanese ambassador to Tunisia who conveyed a message from Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri to the brother commander in chief on the situation in the Middle East and Palestinian-Sudanese relations.

FURTHER ON SALAH KHALAF'S MOROCCAN VISIT

LD021520 Kuwait KUNA in English 1217 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Rabat, Nov 2 (KUNA) -- Central Committee member of the Palestinian mainstream commando organization, Fatah, Salah Khalaf is scheduled to address a public rally here later Tuesday,

Khalaf, better known as Abu Iyad, is expected to speak on latest Palestinian developments and the Israeli invasion of Lebanon

Abu Iyad arrived here Monday from [word indistinct] to meet with Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil in the first ever Lebanese-Palestinian high-level meeting since the PLO completed withdrawing its fighters from Beirut on September 2nd in accordance with the American Mideast envoy Philip Habib's plan.

No details of the discussion conducted during the meeting sponsored by King Hassan II of Morocco were available.

Observers here believe that Khalaf was chosen to represent the PLO in the talks in view of the "cordial relations between the Palestinian official and the Lebanese president."

PLO'S AL-HASAN ON U.S.-ARAB DIALOGUE, EGYPT

GF021358 Doha QNA in Arabic 0945 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Kuwait, 2 Nov (QNA) -- Khalid al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee and member of the seven-member committee formed by the Fes summit, has said that one of the results of the committee's visit to Washington is that it opened the door for U.S.-Arab dialogue and created a climate of seriousness regarding the Middle East issue. In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' today, Al-Hasan added that the United States gives credit to the Arab peace plan, although the Americans stick to Reagan's initiative on the Middle East. He said: If the Arabs want to continue toward a peaceful solution based on the Arab peace plan, they will have to find the link between the Arab plan and President Reagan's initiative.

He said the seven-member committee asked a number of questions, which will be presented in the form of a memorandum to the U.S. administration next week so that things in this regard can be crystallized.

The Palestinian official said that the Arab delegation found out that Americans are convinced of the necessity of settling the Palestinian issue. Consequently, it is possible to say that the Palestinian cause has advanced to the middle of the road. He stressed the necessity of continuing a dialogue with the United States.

Regarding the formation of the Arab delegation to go to Washington and the inclusion of a Palestinian representative in the delegation, although the Arabs were aware of Washington's stance, which rejected Palestinian representation in the delegation, he affirmed that the formation of the delegation was an Arab, not a U.S. decision and the PLO representation was included because of an Arab decision that the PLO is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Khalid al-Hasan said that the declaration of a provisional Palestinian government is under discussion within the framework of the National Council and the PLO Executive Committee. Answering a question on whether there were obstacles during the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue, Al-Hasan affirmed that there were no obstacles and that a new page of agreement was turned.

Regarding the PLO's relations with Egypt, he said: It is possible to say that there has been positive progress in the Egyptian stance, especially during the Lebanese war, when Egypt's coordination in the United Nations resulted in the presentation of the French-Egyptian initiative. He said that since President Husni Mubarak came to power, Egypt has stopped talking in the name of Palestinians and acted positively during the Lebanese crisis.

FACTIONS REJECT CONTACTS WITH EGYPT, ISRAEL

JN021756 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] The General Command of the Popular Liberation War Vanguards-As-Sa'iqah forces has spoken highly of the steadfastness of Syria, the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement.

In a statement the organization published today, it said that the U.S.-Zionist-reactionary plot intends to crush the Palestinian Revolution, disengage its patriotic and national alliances and harm the steadfastness of revolutionary Syria in order to eventually subjugate the entire Arab region to the Camp David designs and U.S. hegemony.

The statement outlined the Arab masses' demands to attain a strategic alliance between Syria and the Palestinian Revolution as a nucleus for steadfastness and confrontation as well as the formation of a steadfastness front capable of deterring the enemy and achieving the objectives of the national Palestinian struggle in repatriation, self-determination and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state in Palestine.

The statement said: At this time, we hear talks about moves and proposals which are being made by certain Palestinian sides -- in the name of the PLO -- which contradict the Palestinian consensus and the resolutions of the Palestine National Council [PNC] sessions. The As-Sa'iqah organization condemns any violation of the PNC resolutions and resists any attempt to relinquish the Palestinian national decision or any laxity that would lead to the same result.

The statement added that any proposal to start a dialogue with any Zionist Israeli side, including the Israeli Labor Party, is categorically rejected.

The statement emphasized that any Palestinian relations with Husni Mubarak's regime, the successor of the traitor As-Sadat and a party to the capitulatory Camp David agreement, are also rejected. Any movement toward this regime or any meeting with any of its figures will certainly serve the Camp David plots and the other capitulatory liquidation designs.

The statement said that the Palestinian decision must remain in the hands of the Palestinian people and in the hands of their legitimate leadership, the PLO. The statement underlined the presence of the instrument of the Palestinian Revolution in Lebanon, demanding at the same time that the revolution inside the occupied homeland continue and be further bolstered.

The statement underlined the importance of national unity and clinging to the objectives of the Palestinian national struggle as well as the continuation of struggle until the achievement of repatriation and liberation.

The PFLP has also denounced any contacts that have taken place or will take place with Zionist figures, whether inside or outside the opposition, and with the Egyptian regime.

Commenting on what has been reiterated recently by news agencies regarding contacts that have taken place and are taking place behind closed doors between Palestinian factions and figures of the Zionist opposition Labor Party, as well as with the Egyptian regime's authorities, the perpetrators of the Camp David agreements, the PFLP spokesman renewed the front's view that such contacts and meetings jeopardize the future of the Palestinian struggle which, more than ever before, needs to be bolstered and further strengthened in the face of plots. The Palestinian struggle, the spokesman added, must be developed and its relations with the Arab masses and its supporting powers must be promoted.

Commenting on the Egyptian regime's Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali's statement that a Palestinian figure will visit Cairo and that this visit will take place at the suitable time, the statement said that the PFLP condemns all such moves which intend to lead the Palestinians closer to the Reagan plan, whether the moves related to the Zionist opposition or the agent Egyptian regime. We condemn the perpetrators of these moves and call for their immediate end. We also demand that such moves be announced as illegal so the Palestinian arena may preserve its unity in the fields of struggle.

The statement denounced any deviation from the Palestinian Revolution's national plan, which was endorsed in successive PNC sessions. The statement stressed that the Palestinian national struggle calls for the rectification of the Palestinian nationalist progressive policies as well as the strengthening of these policies in order to keep them away from any wagering on or deviation from the sound Palestinian national course.

SAMIR GHAWSHAH COMMENTS ON ARAB INITIATIVES

JN291933 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1745 GMT 29 Oct 82

[Interview granted by Dr Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, to Radio Monte Carlo correspondent Louis Faris, carried in the weekly "It Happened Yesterday" program -- date, place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Regarding the issue of a confederation with Jor[illegible] and what has been reported on differences within the Resistance on this issue, what [illegible]s happening?

[Answer] No doubt there are differences in the Palestinian arena regarding Palestinian-Jordanian relations. This is not new; it happened when Palestinian-Jordanian relations were discussed several years ago. There were many positions, which placed several limitations on these relations.

During its recent session, our Palestine National Council [PNC] discussed these relations and affirmed that the Jordanian regime did not adhere to what had been previously agreed upon, whether regarding the political, popular and information moves and the right of our masses in Jordan to play their role in confronting the enemy occupying our land, or regarding several [words indistinct] which faced our people.

In our opinion, it is premature to talk about a federal union or confederation at this stage. We do not think it has a sound background because the aim of what is being said now is to provide King Husayn with Palestinian and Arab authorization to enter into negotiations similar to the Camp David ones. Such agreement contradicts our aims and what our PNC decided -- that we must cling to our legitimate rights, including our right to return and to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on national Palestinian soil. Until this is achieved, the door remains open for all kinds of possibilities concerning unitary relations with Jordan or anyone else, a federal union or a confederation. We in the Palestinian Revolution have affirmed that our aim is not only to establish unitary relations with Jordan; we also believe in Arab unity.

Before this is achieved, we believe that the issues are being discussed in a reverse manner, placing the cart before the horse. The main aim is to liberate the land and for our people to achieve their right to self-determination and the establishment of their state. In light of that we can look into Arab relations and the special relationship between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples.

[Question] Mr Ghawshah, some people expect the forthcoming PNC meeting to approve the Arab peace plan, which includes, among other things, an implicit recognition of Israel. What do you think about this and what is your front's position on it?

[Answer] We have defined and declared our position on the Arab summit resolutions. [Words indistinct] regarding us as a nation, it harms our legitimate rights and it is not up to anyone, particularly the seventh article, which includes an implicit recognition of the enemy. Also, there is the third article which would mean the loss of the right of the Palestinians to return and for that right to be replaced by compensation for those who do not want to return. Basically, [words indistinct] summit resolutions if based on the background of [words indistinct] political and diplomatic moves and did not submit any plan to mobilize Arab energies and prepare for complete political, military and economic confrontation of the Zionist enemy. We believe that the PNC will not approve an implicit recognition of the enemy.

Many wagers will fail. Our people will cling to their legitimate rights and their representatives will not relinquish the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people. We believe that the PNC's forthcoming session will be important, particularly in light of the present position of the Palestinian people and Arab attempts to pressure the PLO to force it to deviate from its national struggle and to thrust it toward capitulatory settlements.

[Question] Dr Ghawshah, a final question on the relations between the Resistance, or certain factions of it, and the Syrain Government. What is the state of these relations?

[Answer] Actually, these relations affect both the Resistance's freedom of movement inside Syria and in the Biqa' plain and the north. Also, there is no doubt that there are differences between some of the Resistance and Syrian factions. However, we believe that it is our national and Pan-Arab duty to do our utmost to strenghten these relations in order to confront what is happening in Lebanon and the plans and solutions being presented which aim to strike at and destroy the Palestinian people's struggle and our Pan-Arab aims, including our right to liberate all of the occupied Arab territories, whether in Palestine, the Golan or Lebanon. We believe that this matter will de discussed by the Palestinian leadership to further strengthen these relations in the interest of the joint struggle.

[Question] Does Syria provide you with the facilities you request?

[Answer] We can say that our principal presence [word indistinct] and inside Syria. At this stage we are close to our homeland and we believe that this matter is progressing well. However, we are endeavoring to improve certain practical aspects and we believe that this matter will be solved in a way that will strengthen the Palestinian Resistance and the joint struggle fo the Palestinian forces and Syria.

PLO STATION BEGINS 'EXPERIMENTAL' TRANSMISSION

JN011642 [Editorial Report] A station identifying itself as the voice of Palestine, voice of the Palestinian Revolution, voice of the Palestine Liberation Organization at 1600 GMT on 1 November begins what it calls experimental transmission on 1116 kHz. Before 1600 GMT, this frequency was relaying the Baghdad voice of the masses service in parallel with other Baghdad radio frequencies.

The station opens with the same tune and opening announcement that the clandestine Voice of Palestine used to use. An announcement at 1613 GMT says that the broadcasts can be heard daily at 1600 GMT on 1116 kHz and will last 1 hour.

POLL SHOWS INCREASED SUPPORT FOR 'ARAFAT

GF021857 Baghad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] A public opinion poll whose results were distributed by the Palestinian magazine AL-BAYADIR, which is published in Jerusalem, capital of occupied Palestine, indicates that all nationalist [wataniyah] figures, mayors and chairmen of rural councils oppose any interference from any source in the affairs of the PLO Executive Committee. AL-BAYADIR, which polled more than 82 prominent Palestinian figures of various political affinities in the occupied West Bank, asserts that all these figures support Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] more than at any other time in the past.

AL-BAYADIR also cites the reactions of these Palestinian figures to the attempts to cast doubts -- attempts made by some Arab capitals -- on the PLO and its leader, Brother Abu 'Ammar. AL-BAYADIR asserts that all the nationalist Palestinian figures, mayors and chairmen of rural councils, without exception, condemn any interference in Palestinian internal affairs.

AL-BAYADIR says that the unanimity of views on the PLO Executive Committee chairman, brother Abu 'Ammar, is absolutely not for discussion, and that Abu 'Ammar enjoys the unprecedented support of all Palestinian citizens.

PALESTINIAN FORCES, INDUSTRIES TO MOVE TO YAR

PM011609 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 28 Oct 82 p 1

[Majdi ad-Daqqaq report: "Moving Palestinian Forces From Aden to San'a']

[Text] 'UKAZ has learned from political sources in the [North] Yemeni capital that there is a plan to move the Palestinian forces stationed in Aden to San'a' to join the Palestinian forces now there.

These sources link this development to the report that large numbers joined the Palestinian forces in Jordan following the Jordanian-Palestinian rapprochement achieved during PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's recent visit to Amman.

The sources also told 'UKAZ that studies are being carried out in the meantime to concentrate Palestinian economic units in the YAR. These are the factories of the martyrs' children known as "samid." This is a consequence of the Israeli enemy's invasion of Lebanon and its destruction of Palestinian establishments.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE CONTINUES

Second Session

GF021048 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Manama, 2 Nov (WAKH) -- The GCC foreign ministers ended their second closed working session here today.

WAKH has learned that the foreign ministers completed discussion of political, economic, security and defense issues during this session. The ministers are scheduled to hold a third and final session tonight. They will discuss legal and administrative matters regarding the budget of the GCC secretariat.

Third Session

GF021947 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1920 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Manama, 2 Nov (WAKH) -- The GCC foreign ministers concluded their third session here this evening.

Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah announced that during their meeting this evening the minister finished discussing most of the issues listed on their agenda.

The Bahraini foreign minister added in a press statement after the meeting that the ministers adopted decisions and recommendations pertaining to political, economic, defense and security issues that will be submitted at the Gulf summit next Tuesday

The Bahraini foreign minister said the ministers will hold their concluding session tomorrow morning, Wednesday, to discuss the rest of the issues concerning the legal and administrative affairs of the GCC Secretariat.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak indicated that the ministers discussed the developments in the Iranian-Iraqi war, the situation in Lebanon, the security agreement, the mediation between the Sultanate of Oman and the PDRY and the recommendations of all the GCC ministerial committees.

As for the recommendations of the defense ministers and the formation of a Gulf defense council, he said that there are some plans in this regard, that recommendations have been made on them and that this will be announced at the summit.

The Bahraini foreign minister explained that the ministers did not discuss the issue of Arab-Egyptian relations. He said this topic will be left for the Arab summit.

Amir Receives Ministers

GF030630 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1755 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Manama, 2 Nov (WAKH) -- Shaykh 'Isa Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, today received the foreign ministers of the GCC countries, the GCC secretary general and the delegations accompanying the ministers who are attending the third session of the GCC Ministerial Council conference.

In a speech welcoming the ministers, the amir praised the efforts they are making in their discussions of the topics on their agenda. The amir emphasized the importance of the summit conference which is scheduled to be held in Bahrain on 9 November.

We said that the State of Bahrain looks forward to this conference and to the results that it will bring about -- results that will serve the march of development and prosperity of the peoples of the area.

Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah hosted a dinner this evening for the ministers and the delegations accompanying them. Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister; Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force; Shaykh Rashid ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah; Shaykh 'Ali ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah; ministers; chief of the amiri court; ambassadors of GCC countries and guests attended.

BAHRAINI AMIR INTERVIEWED ON UPCOMING GCC SUMMIT

GF030826 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 3 Nov 82

[Text] Manama, 3 Nov (WAKH) -- Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, has said that the forthcoming GCC summit conference which is scheduled to be held in Bahrain on 9 November will lay down the pillars of Arab solidarity and the bases for coordination among GCC governments to achieve the interests of the peoples of the area.

In an interview with the Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM published today, Shaykh 'Isa expresses the hope that the conference will crystallize the aspirations of the people of the Gulf. He said: "We will be eliminating all economic and trade obstacles. The Gulf cannot be prosperous unless it is strong and unless its strength is built on solid bases."

Referring to the forthcoming GCC summit, the amir of Bahrain said: "The summit is of great significance because the strengthening of cooperation in the present stage will be discussed. There are many topics on the summit's agenda -- political as well as economic issues. All of these issues aim to increase cooperation among the six GCC countries. This confirms the soundness of the course taken by the GCC countries; all the steps they have taken have been well thought out and not taken hastily."

The amir of Bahrain reaffirmed that the GCC is not a regional bloc and said that the GCC's aim is to guard the safety of the GCC countries and to spare the region from the threat of international conflicts, which do not serve the real interests of the peoples of the area. He declared: "Gulf security is indivisible."

Asked about the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war, Shaykh 'Isa reiterated the call to all parties of this conflict to respond to the various mediations and appeals to end the war and resort to negotiations to settle all problems. He noted: "The Gulf leaders want to see an end to this war and want to do what is appropriate and necessary to tackle all the issues and challenges affecting the security of their peoples, the interests of their countries and the stability of their region."

The amir of Bahrain paid tribute to the PLO and said: "It has emerged from the Lebanon war more capable than ever of continuing the march, now that the leadership of the Palestinian Revolution has made its decision and entered the political arena so that it will continue in its leadership and achieve the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people." Shaykh 'Isa called for supporting the PLO by all means so that it can achieve its aims.

KUWAIT

OFFICIAL PRAISES OMAN-PDRY RECONCILIATION ACCORD

LD301830 Kuwait KUNA in English 1619 GMT 30 Oct 82

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 30 (KUNA) -- A high ranking Kuwaiti official said here Saturday that Democratic Yemen and the Sultanate of Oman will refrain from depending on "world powers" for protection after the signing of an accord last Wednesday to normalize relations.

Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Rashid ar-Rashid told newsmen that the accord, signed by South Yemen Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali and his Omani counterpart Yusuf al-Alawi following five days of negotiations "is an asset to the Gulf region and the Arab nation as a whole."

He added that the accord has demonstrated both parties' ability to tide over their disputes and to conceive the actualities of the situation between them and the region in general. Ar-Rashid praised the accord as a living example of cooperation between systems which differ politically and on other certain issues.

The negotiations were conducted under the auspices of Kuwait Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and UAE Foreign Undersecretary 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Jarwan at the request of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Ar-Rashid traced back the dispute between South Yemen and Oman to the period of independence in the mid 60's when there were no diplomatic relations, in the proper sense, existing between both states. "Now after 16 years," he added, "no one should expect that problems can be settled in the normal and natural way. They need special effort and a considerable build up of trust between the two parties," Ar-Rashid declared. He explained that the first round of talks between Yemen and Oman held here last July was "an exploratory meeting" when each party put forward its viewpoint "without specific solutions" in the form of an agenda of the outstanding issues with the aim of opening a new chapter in bilateral relations.

Ar-Rashid, who attended throughout the negotiations, stated that the second and final round of talks during which the accord was signed has reflected both parties' willingness to settle their disputes and that the agreement will soon be announced after being ratified by the two governments. He hoped that "other countries, particularly the Arab states, will follow this example" because "our region needs increased dialogue and peaceful settlement of its disputes within the framework of good neighbourly relations."

Ar-Rashid stated that all parties attach great hopes to this agreement, which "the two sides have good intentions to implement." He expressed thanks to the South Yemeni president, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and to Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman for "their kind confidence in Kuwait and the UAE and for their contribution and understanding of their countries and the area's need for such agreement."

Ar-Rashid described the accord as an attainment not only to Yemen and Oman but also to the region and the entire Arab nation. On the impact of the accord on superpower influence in the region, the undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that settlement of disputes between the two sister and neighbour states will undoubtedly restore trust and consequently "eliminate suspicions and doubts that invite dependence on other parties, either international or other."

He pointed out that cooperation between South Yemen and Oman will contribute to construction and development in both states and in countries of the Gulf region. Ar-Rashid reiterated that patching up of Arab differences was a cornerstone of Kuwait's diplomatic policy and concluded that details of the Yemeni-Omani agreement will be reviewed by the forthcoming GCC summit to be held in Manama, Bahrain on November 9.

SAUDI ARABIA

COMMENTATOR DENOUNCES NEW IRANIAN OFFENSIVE

GF021751 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Jasir 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasir commentary]

[Text] As the reports of military experts predicted, the Iraqi forces have thwarted a new Iranian aggression aimed this time at the region facing Maysan Governorate.

Anyone who follows the series of the aggressive Iranian attacks against the Arab lands in Iraq can see that two main factors exist in all these aggressive violations.

The first is that the Iranian regime times its aggressions against Iraq to take advantage of religious occasions. The first aggressive offensive was timed for the last days of the blessed month of Ramadan. The second aggression took place during the first 10 days of Dhu al-Hijjah, while the current aggression is taking place on the first day of the second half of the sacred month of Muharram. These times were not chosen lightly by the Iranian regime. These are wicked and dishonorable attempts to exploit religious occasions in order to achieve aggressive gains at the expense of occasions that are holy to all the Muslim peoples. By doing so, it deludes the Iranian peoples that it cares for religion, despite the clear religious orders which forbid fighting during these days.

However, the Iranian regime -- as it is its habit to violate all religious teachings and laws, whether in dealing with the Iranian peoples or the other Islamic nations -- does not abide by these religious teachings, which prohibit fighting during the sacred months and reject the aggressive acts which have become the permanent concept of the Iranian regime's men.

The second factor is varying the military operations geographically. During the Ramadan aggression, the Iranian aggression was aimed at the east of Basra. The Dhu al-Hijjah aggression was directed at Mandali in the center, while the Muharram aggressions' region is Maysan-al-'Imarah. This geographic variation is meant to ease the psychological effects that the continuing defeats create and to reduce their reflection on the Iranian forces present in the region where the fighting takes place. Thus, after being defeated in Basra, the Iranian regime searched for an improvement in Mandali, and since that failed, it is trying once more in Maysan. Together with its desperate attempts, its aggressive practices increase as a result of the negative effects that are reinforced by its defeat in battles.

ARAB, ISLAMIC NATIONS URGED TO BACK IRAQ

LD291300 Riyadh SPA in English 1222 GMT 29 Oct 82

[Text] Riyadh, Oct 29 (SPA) -- The Jidda-published newspaper 'UKAZ today urged Arabs and Moslems to support Iraq with all means at their disposal, including implementation of the joint Arab defence pact.

The paper was commenting on Iran's rejection of peace overtures by Iraq and proposals submitted by an Islamic conciliation committee to put an end to war between the two neighboring countries, now more than two years old.

It said that in view of Iraq's "declared readiness to resolve the armed conflict peacefully, the Arab and Islamic nation should back Iraq fully after Guinean President and Committee Chairman Ahmed Sekou Toure announces the stand of both sides to the conflict on the peace efforts."

Reports about Iranian military preparations to launch a fresh attack on Iraqi territory "affirms Iran's determination to continue escalating the war against Iraq," the paper added.

HABIB CHATTI ON ISLAMIC CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

PM011617 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Oct 82 p 3

[Interview granted by Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT correspondent in Jidda -- date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] What steps did the Islamic Conference Organization and the Arab League take with regard to the recent situation in Lebanon?

[Answer] As soon as the Secretariat General heard the shocking news of the Beirut massacre, it sent a telegram to President Reagan drawing his attention to the fact that the United States is directly responsible for what is taking place and participated in and even supervised the plans for the departure of the Palestinian Resistance, something that had won it the confidence of Arabs, Muslims and even Palestinians.

We told President Reagan that the United States bears a double responsibilty; the first responsibility is a direct one for the reasons I have just mentioned, and the second is its responsibility for peace in the area and the world in its capacity as a superpower. A country with responsibilities like the United States' should not allow such actions to take place, actions unparalleled except in Europe in the Middle Ages, when the Russians and the Poles attacked the Jews.

[Question] Does the Islamic Conference Organization and its secretary general not think the time has come to involve other world powers in helping to find a solution?

[Answer] All the powers are now participating in solving the Middle East problem. The Soviet Union, the Western camp and the whole Third World, particularly the nonaligned countires, are now taking part.

[Question] But not with the same amount of participation as the United States. The United States has most of the Middle East cards in its hands. Don't you think the Soviet Union will have an influential role if it intervenes directly?

[Answer] I do not think that it will have an influence if it intervenes directly. First because it did not intervene in Beirut in an effective manner; it was watching like all the other spectators. Second, by what means can it intervene? All the cards are in the hands of the United States, which supports Israel. What is the Soviet Union's capability in the Middle East? To help the Arab countries like Syria, for example? It supplies Syria with arms but this aid does not match U.S. aid to Israel. Moreover I do not think that the Soviet Union is prepared to do this, which recent events have confirmed.

[Question] Let us go back a little -- to the Islamic Conference mediation [in the Iraq-Iran war]. At the recent GCC meeting in Riyadh the sole preference seemed to be the revival of Islamic mediation. Can you throw light on the progress made so far in reviving this mediation since the GCC meeting?

[Answer] Contacts between the Islamic peace committee and Iraq and Iran are continuing and work is in progress. In this regard we are working out amendments to our old proposals to be submitted to both sides in the near future, God willing.

Our mediation has never stopped and it is accepted by both Iraq and Iran and supported by all the parties, including the United Nations. But the problem is complicated and needs some patience and time. We are working incessantly and we hope to succeed eventually. I am sure that the Islamic Conference Organization will succeed in establishing peace between Iran and Iraq.

[Question] Iran has said that it is ready to give up its claim for compensation in return for a very tough condition, the toppling of the Iraqi regime and the setting up of a regime similar to that of the Islamic Republic.

[Answer] We have not heard of such a thing. We have heard officially from Iran regarding compensation and this has not changed. I think in order for this mediation to succeed it is better to keep its work secret. I hope that shortly we will arrive at the stage of secret work and negotiations so as to avoid creating an atmosphere that might impede or block negotiations.

[Question] Your optimism prompts us to ask you: Did you specify a fairly short period of time for solving this crisis?

[Answer] Not an exact period of time but a period of time that I can describe as not long.

[Question] In a previous press statement you specified 3 weeks for the superpowers to intervene in the Gulf war if no settlement is reached. What period do you specify today?

[Answer] Such a situation potentially exists all the time. If a situation is created in the Gulf where the oilfields and oil exports, particularly through the Strait of Hormuz, are in danger, then there is no doubt there will be a U.S. intervention. The United States will then find an excuse, which is to protect the world economy, in which case it will become the new gendarme of the world area. This is one of the arguments we put to the two parties. We tell them that if this war does not stop they will open the door to foreign interference in the area, which will not be in the interest of either party.

[Question] At the New York meeting [not further specified] it was decided to set up an Islamic tribunal and Kuwait was designated as its venue. What are the latest developments regarding this decision?

[Answer] The Secretariat General made gigantic efforts to prepare the statute of this tribunal so it could be endorsed at the Niamey conference and to set up the tribunal as early as possible so that it would become one of the means of achieving peace between Iraq and Iran, but most unfortunately the project did not please some of the countries from the standpoint of form, not of principle, and so it was postponed and for some time in order to be studied by a committee representing all the countries. This a most unfortunate delay.

[Question] How optimistic are you about the new mediation program?

[Answer] Moderately optimistic; the optimism of a man who believes in the cause and in the understanding and realization by both parties of their responsibilities at the present stage.

[Question] The Islamic Conference Organization was recently accused of abandoning the Eritrean revolution. This was said by one of the officials in the [Eritrean liberation] organization. What is your view on it?

[Answer] I have a comment on it. I have read the statement in ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT and I would like to say that it is not true. I do not wish to enter a war of words with the Eritrean brothers; I understand their anger because they are in a state of war and because they do not understand our position.

First, I personally was the first to defend the Eritrean cause when I was foreign minister. I served Tunisia's relations with Ethiopia and we were the only Arab country to sever relations with it. I was the first to allow the opening of an Eritrean office in Tunis, which is now the most active office.

The statement published in ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT says that the Eritrean question was previously put on the Islamic Conference agenda. I do not recall that it was included before I took office. What I do know is that we -- the Secretariat General -- contributed to having it included on the agenda at the At-Ta'if summit for the first time. The author of the statement blames the Secretariat General on two scores: First, the construction of the committee and, second, the fact that they [the Eritreans] were unable to be present at the Niamey conference. With regard to the first point, the committee consisted of Senegal, Guinea and the secretary general. It met several times but it could not find a way to contact Ethiopia because Ethiopia was not prepared to talk with this committee.

I would like to make a second remark here, namely, that because of our attitude toward Eritera our relations with the OAU became absolutely worthless because the OAU, and particularly its secretary general, out of fear of the Ethiopian reaction, boycotted the Islamic Conference Organization completely and refused to deal with it in any way. Therefore, our position regarding the Eriteran problem is that the African countries themselves, with the exception of Senegal and Guinea, are not prepared to help us in this problem because they believe that it concerns the OAU and that if we go too far in discussing it we will cause problems between the Arabs and the African states.

With regard to Niamey, the Secretariat General is responsibile for for inviting the member states and the observer states. As for other delegations such as the [Eritrean] liberation organization, they are guests of the state [hosting the conference]. The Secretariat General had asked Niger to host the Eritrean delegation but it refused. This is a political problem for Niger; it is not up to us. Their [the Eritreans] claim that upon their arrival at the airport they asked for my intervention but I declined is not true. Before arriving in Niger I asked the Niger Government to invite Eritrea but when I arrived I did not find them. I asked the government why, and they said the question of guests is our concern and we did not invite them.

MUBARAK MEETS WITH OFFICIALS FROM GOVERNORATES

NC021742 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (MENA) -- President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning met with the the political, executive and popular leaderships from the governorates of Ash-Sharqiyah, Al-Qalyubiyah and Al-Minufiyah.

The meeting, which was held at the general census and mobilization center, was attended by Prime Minister Dr Fu 'ad Muhyi, deputy leader of the National Democratic Party for foreign liaison Dr Mustafa Khalil, Speaker of the People's Assembly Dr Sufi Abu Talib and Speaker of the Consultative Council Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim. It was also attended by the three deputy prime ministers, the three governors, members of the Secretariat General of the National Democratic Party and the party secretaries in the governorates.

The meeting was held within the framework of the series of meetings the president is holding to explain the dimensions of the domestic and foreign political situation.

After the approximately 3-hour meeting, Minister of State for Information Safwat ash-Sharif stated that many issues pertaining to domestic and foreign policies were put forward during the meeting. He said the dialogue with the president was open and frank.

In relation to domestic issues, Safwat ash-Sharif said the president talked about the issue of corruption, emphasizing that societies in all states of the world suffer from and are exposed to deviation. He quoted the president as having said: Everything I do is inspired by my conscience and is for the benefit of our people and country. I have no particular stand toward any individual, but when deviation occurs, there is no keeping quiet about it and I will not fail to take action. The issue is taken up and referred to the judiciary so justice may take its course. We in Egypt have grown accustomed to giving such issues special attention and to putting them before public opinion at great length. But everything is done in accordance with the supremacy of the law. There is no protection for the deviator. I hope that such issues are not used as a reason for slandering Egypt's leaders. This will not be accepted, because these leaders have served their country and people and achieved freedom, democracy and victory. We must not take advantage of deviation to defame the leaders. The subject is one of principle and of country, and not one of propaganda demonstrations. The information media should adhere to the truth and to objectivity. All of us are aware that this subject is left to the judiciary and the law. The judiciary in Egypt is independent and the law is supreme.

Safwat ash-Sharif said that President Mubarak also dealt with what is being published in the newspapers at the national and party levels and pointed to the values and morality of the Egyptian people. His Excellency [President Mubarak] said that with regard to private affairs, our national, party and local newspapers should desist from publishing anything that is harmful to the sanctity of the home, family and society. The party members in the districts should confront such matters through contacts, explanations and clarifications.

With regard to the question of fields for youths, President Mubarak asked the prime minister to study the question of securing the necessary land for the establishment of centers and fields for the youths and to make all the necessary decisions in this respect.

On the foreign situations, the president answered a question on the Tabah problem by emphasizing that Egypt is always seeking the establishment of peace. We shall not permit any interference or imposition of opinion.

There is no connection between the recalling of Egypt's ambassador in Israel and the start of negotiations on the Tabah problem. Egypt recalled its ambassador from Israel and he will return when Egypt decides he will return. We believe in peace and seek to enhance it, but not at the expense of right. These are our principles and policy.

Safwat ash-Sharif said that President Husni Mubarak also spoke about the method of adopting decisions in Egypt. President Mubarak said: When we adopt a political decision at home or abroad, it stems from the people's interest and future and not with a view to achieve a popular gain. This is the method we follow in every one of our decisions.

The president added: As long as the decision stems from the Egyptian will and is far from attempts to play with the people's feelings, the people know their interest and sense their way. Frankness and clarity are the mark of performance and exemplary methods. Our main goal is always the people's interest, which is above every other consideration.

The president replied to many questions on the integration between Eypgt and Sudan and on the integration charter. He explained the charter and the institutions to be established under it. He also explained all the steps that have been taken so far. The president said the integration is an example of what a studied move should be for the achievement of deeper relations between the two fraternal peoples. It is also an expression of the will of the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples.

Ash-Sharif said that President Mubarak also pointed out that there are attempts by some to terrorize some Arab sides against continuing their contacts with Egypt. These sides do not want a solution to the Palestinian problem, since the solution of the problem will not be in their interest. Those who trade with the issue will lose a great deal. But the appropriate time will come when chances will be given for the restoration of relations with some Arab sides and fraternal states.

On the domestic situation, the president said: Through hard work, good examples, application of the law, the deepening of democracy, and economic reform -- with public participation -- we shall exploit all positive aspects and dispose of the negative aspects. However, we will not be able to dispose of our negative aspects at once. The building of states and societies requires time and scientific planning, coupled with efforts on the right course -- the course of reformation -- and not through the method of electric shocks.

Regarding the provision of food and clothing to the people, the president said: I issued my instructions to the minister of industry during my visit to the factories to expand production to achieve self-sufficiency and at the appropriate time to stop the importation of ready-made clothing. This will also protect our local industry. The same applies to food production and the needs of the consumer for all products.

Safwat ash-Sharif said that President Mubarak emphasized the need to establish projects and not to pay attention to the campaigns casting doubt on our capabilities. He pointed out that we have successful examples of how we resolved some problems, such as the problem of telephones, the encroachment of the desert, and the use of technology.

President Mubarak pointed out that progress will be achieved through planning and refraining from personal tendencies in the evaluation of our performance and our projects. The president said: An example of this is the As-Salihiyah project, which I visited recently and which agricultural experts regard as a pioneering project. We must get experience from it and apply it to other areas.

Regarding the infringment upon agricultural land, the president said that the governors are responsible for safeguarding agricultural land and not permitting the establishment of buildings and factories on it. We must expand the establishment of new societies according to plans. The governors are fully responsible for this, and no trickery should be allowed to expand town boundaries.

Safwat ash-Sharif said that at the end of his meeting with the executive and popular leaderships and the National Democratic Party leadership, the president called for work, devotion and setting a good example for others in the sphere of production and labor.

Further Report

NC021624 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] President Husni Mubarak answered questions from foreign news agency, radio, and television correspondents after his meeting this morning with the political, executive and popular leaderships in the governorates of Ash-Sharqiyah, Al-Qalyubiyah, and Al-Minufiyah.

On the issue of Israel's building a hotel in Tabah, the president said he thinks it would be better to leave it for negotiations and let Israel do what it wants and build the hotel and prepare it, and then we shall pay the price for it and take it in the end.

Regarding the U.S. position as a third partner in the talks on the Tabah problem, the president said the United States does not approve of Israel building the hotel in Tabah and considers it a violation of the peace treaty. The United States will play its role in solving the problem through negotiations.

Regarding the negotiations to solve the Middle East problem, the president said there is a new element in the problem, the Jordanian-Palestinian meeting. If a certain formula for the establishment of a federal or confederal union or any other formula is reached, it could help in holding the Palestinian autonomy talks in accordance with President Reagan's peace initiative.

Asked whether he is asking the United States to play a more effective role, the president said that it must play this role and must try to end the Middle East problem.

Asked whether he wishes to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Begin, he said that he sees nothing preventing him from seeing Begin, and that there is nothing personal between him and Begin. He said he can meet him anywhere and that this is not a problem, but only after the bases on which the negotiations could start are reached.

The president said that Israel must put an end to the Tabah problem. If it does, it will be considered a good sign, and we can resume the autonomy negotiations on new bases.

The president said: We are seeking to establish peace, and we do not permit any interference or the imposition of opinions. There is no connection between the recalling of our ambassador in Israel and the start of negotiations on Tabah. The ambassador will return when Egypt decides he will return. The president affirmed that Egypt's strategy is peace and helping those who have a right to peace.

He said all the political decisions, at home and abroad, are for the benefit of the people and stem from their will. The Egyptian will is the basis, and frankness and clarity are the mark of its performance.

The president then explained and analyzed the charter for integration between Egypt and Sudan, and described it as an expression of the will of the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples.

[Minister of State for Information] Safwar ash-Sharif stated that the president held an open dialogue on domestic and foreign policy. His excellency dealt with the issue of corruption. He said in this regard, that all societies suffer from deviation, but we are performing our work inspired by our conscience and for the good of the people. The president affirmed that he will not be negligent in this regard. He said that justice will take its course, and that the supremacy of the law will prevail. Our aim, in the final analysis, is to protect the people's interests, and there can be no protection for a deviator. I hope that such incidents will not serve as tools for defaming the leaders of Egypt, who gave their lives for their people and achieved victory for their country.

The president called for the establishment of public centers and fields for the youths. He called on the ministers to prepare the necessary decisions to fulfill this need.

The president affirmed that he has issued instructions to the industry minister to achieve self-sufficiency in clothing, and the same with regard to food.

'ISMAT AS-SADAT REJECTS CHARGES AGAINST HIM

NC021153 Paris AFP in English 1128 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Cairo, Nov 2 (AFP) -- 'Ismat as-Sadat, the brother of the late Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat, who is currently in prison charged with "illegal activities", has rejected the charges against him in a newspaper article published here today.

In the weekly opposition newspaper ASH-SHA'B, Mr. as-Sadat denied he owned buildings, land, a fleet of trucks and several apartments. Mr. as-Sadat's personal holdings, considered to be among the largest in Egypt, were seized by the state two weeks ago.

The brother of the late president said that his fortune did not exceed 150,000 Egyptian pounds (dollars) and that he had earned it by perfectly legal means.

Asked about the former president's decision to bar his access to all the Egyptian ports, Mr as-Sadat said his brother "was afraid of the mafia" which controls the Alexandria port, and had to yield to a mafia request to prevent him entering the port.

In another development the state prosecutor reversed a decision to seize the property of Munira Mohamed Ibrahim, one of Mr. as-Sadat's four wives after an investigation showed that she divorced her husband in 1957 and remarried in 1970, since when she has cut all links with Mr. as-Sadat.

PRESIDENT SAYS NEW IRANIAN OFFENSIVE 'CRUSHED'

JN021525 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn has asserted that the large-scale Iranian offensive, which began last night with the aim of penetrating Iraq's international borders, has been foiled and crushed. He added that Iraq will continue to fight in defense of its sovereignty and territory as well as in defense of the region's security as long as the Iranian aggressor continues his attempts to harm Iraq's land and to plan to destroy the edifice of civilization erected by the Iraqis.

He noted that Iraq does not view its security in isolation of world security. He added that Iraq did not want war, but when someone tries to threaten its entity, sovereignty and security as well as the entity, sovereignty and security of its brothers in the Arab Gulf, it must then fight.

Addressing the heads of the delegations participating in the 19th session of the Baghdad international fair, which opened yesterday, the president said: Despite the heavy price of the war Iraq has been waging for 3 years, the Iraqi people, helped by their brothers and friends, managed to forge their way ahead along the path of construction.

He indicated that there are basic differences between those who build and those who destroy. He added that any outside observer can realize the intentions of each side to the military dispute and which one of them wants war -- not on the basis of which one is ready to meet the war's requirements, but on the basis of which one wants construction and which one wants destruction.

He added that Iraq does not wish economic and cultural prosperity for itself in isolation of what it wishes for the world's peoples. He said that on the basis of these principles, Iraq is viewing with some anxiety the present world economic structure. He pointed out that this structure is not sound because certain international powers, financial houses and firms are manipulating the market trends in a manner which is harmful to people in several parts of the world. The president called for dealing with this state, noting that economic instability leads to political instability which constitutes a threat to peace that may expand to threaten the world with what it does not want.

Speaking on behalf of the heads of delegations, Milenko Bojanic, Yugoslav federal secretary of foreign trade, stressed that the large international participation in the fair is clear evidence of the expansion of Iraq's economic policy and its openness to the world's states.

He added: During our visit to Baghdad, we have become more and more convinced of how much we need peace in the entire region. We sincerely hope that the mediation committees will achieve good and fruitful results so that peace, construction and development can be the guiding principle of the region's peoples. This is certainly in the interest of world peace.

Bojanic praised the warm reception accorded to the participants in the fair by the Iraqi officials and people, stressing that the current session of the fair embodies distinguished development in the various fields and activities.

The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman; Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister and Khalid 'Abd al-Mun'im Rashid, head of the president's office and acting RCC secretary.

SADDAM HUSAYN RECEIVES YAR ENVOY 2 NOVEMBER

JN021850 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn received here this evening Ahmad Muhammad ash-Shijni, personal enovy of YAR President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and minister of state for Constituent People's Assembly affairs.

During the meeting, President Saddam Husayn praised the YAR's support for Iraq in its just battle and stressed that this support embodies the genuine pan-Arab stand of the YAR.

The YAR envoy reiterated his country's solidarity with Iraq in its pan-Arab battle on the eastern flank of the Arab homeland and his country's readiness to offer all that Iraq asks for out of the YAR"s commitment to its pan-Arab obligations.

During the meeting, which was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman, the two sides reviewed the developments of the Iraq-Iran war and the treacherous aggression the enemy forces launched against the IV Corps sector at dawn today.

The meeting was also attended by Khalid 'Abd al-Mun'im Rashid, head of the president's office and acting RCC secretary; Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs and the YAR ambassador in Baghdad.

Envoy Makes Statement, Departs

JN021922 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1845 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA) -- Ahmad ash-Shijni, personal envoy of YAR President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and minister of state for the Constituent People's Assembly affairs, left Baghdad this evening.

Ash-Shijni said he conveyed an oral message to President Saddam Husayn from the YAR president, dealing with relations between the two fraternal countries and the means of bolstering them in the interest of their two peoples and the Arab nation. He added that it also dealt with the unification of efforts toward fateful Arab issues and current international problems.

He said that message asserts the YAR's firm support for Iraq in its just war against the Iranian regime. It also expresses support for Iraq's sincere efforts to end the war with Iran and conclude peace between the two countries.

REPORTAGE ON FIGHTING WITH IRAN 2-3 NOVEMBER

Iranians Attack IV Corps

GF021158 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text of statement issued by an armed forces spokesman]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. They are scheming only against themselves and they do not realize it. [Koranic verse]

The Iranian enemy last night and this morning attacked units of the IV Corps in the area opposite the Maysan Governorate in a desperate attempt to penetrate our international border.

The enemy failed abysmally in penetrating our international border; his offensive was destroyed and his forces were crushed.

The battle is still raging and our heroic forces are continuing to teach the aggressors the lessons they deserve. The suspect expansionist aggressors will only reap continuous failure and successive defeats for their evil ambitions.

God is great; pride and victory for great Iraq.

Minister Jasim on Fighting

JN021534 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1435 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA) -- Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has stated that, after every aborted attempt to cross Iraq's borders, the Iranian regime claims that it is fighting within its territory.

In a statement to INA today, Jasim said that the Iranian regime resorts to these campaigns of premeditated deception every time its forces sustain heavy losses and are confronted by the fierce Iraqi response. The Iraqi minister stressed that the Iranian rulers' dreams of penetrating Iraqi borders will be foiled by the Iraqis

He recalled that the Iraqi leadership decided to withdraw the Iraqi forces to the international borders with Iran last June. The Iraqi minister also recalled the statements made by the Iranian rulers after their treacherous aggression east of Basra and in the Mandali sector had been defeated when they also claimed that they were fighting within their borders while in reality they were threatening to occupy Basra and Baghdad.

Husayn Visits II Corps

JN021713 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INC) -- President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the armed forces, today visited the II Corps headquarters in the central sector of the battlefield which is fighting the forces of the vicious Iranian regime. Saddam Husayn, the corps commander, and staff officers discussed the various aspects of the military situation and our valiant units' preparedness to repulse any offensive by the Iranian enemy forces.

Communique No 891

JN021742 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1720 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Communique No 891 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 2 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O great Iraqi people, O sons of the glorious Arab nations, O brave men in our armed forces: Once again Khomeyni's bankrupt and collapsing regime has tried its luck in an abortive adventure to cross Iraq's great borders and land.

As usual, Iraq's brave soldiers confronted and fought the enemy as men should fight in defense of their land and with dignity, according to a coordinated plan in which the ground forces, air force fighter planes and armed helicopters took part.

With Almighty God's help, strong blows were dealt to the enemy forces that last night tried to cross our international borders in the area opposite the Maysan Governorate in the southern sector of the battlefield. The forces of the regime of evil and aggression sustained very large losses in life. The number of the dead so far counted by the competent quarters amounted to 4,660 and there are a large number of wounded and captured.

Moreover, a large number of enemy tanks, personnel carriers and vehicles were also destroyed. The battles are still going on. Our heroic armed forces are determined to destroy what is left of the enemy forces, shatter the wicked enemy's dreams and expose all the enemy's allegations which are full of lies and charlatanism.

As stated in the military spokesman's statement this morning, our bold air force aircraft stood the test and completely controlled the battleskies. From dawn today until sunset, our aircraft have been dealing crushing blows to the enemy troop concentrations, equipment and transport lines in the central and southern sectors in the area opposite the Maysan Governorate. Our aircraft today carried out 187 combat missions. All our aircraft returned safely to base, thanks be to God.

This afternoon, our valiant forces in the central sector of the battlefield began a shocking attack against the enemy forces with the aim of dispersing them, dealing strong blows to them and reinforcing the protection of our border areas in that sector. During fierce battles in which all weapons were used, our armed forces managed to accomplish an important part of the aims drawn up for them. Our forces are still continuing their bold activities with complete success, inflicting large losses on the enemy men and equipment.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 2 November 1982

'Enemy' Offensive 'Failed'

JN031012 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0924 GMT 3 Nov 82

[Text of military spokesman's statement on 3 November]

[Text] Every time they are sent back to temptation, they succumb thereto. [Koranic verse]

Our victorious forces in the IV Army Corps sector continue to close in on the remnants of the frightened enemy forces, which ventured to penetrate our international border in the area opposite the Maysan Governorate in the southern operational sector, and to deal them crushing blows with various weapons. The enemy forces sustained numerous losses in personnel, whose bodies filled the battlefield, and large numbers of wounded. Many enemy soldiers were also captured and will be removed to the rear.

In the meantime, our courageous fighter aircraft and helicopters have this morning continued their powerful strikes and successful raids on enemy positions, units and remnants in the same sector. They are heaping their fire of wrath [on the Iranians], inflicting very heavy losses on the aggressors. They destroyed many of the enemy's armor, vehicles and personnel assembly points. They also destroyed enemy field command positions and artillery emplacements.

Our forces in this heroic sector are gaining more strength and courage. As usual, they continue to teach the enemy the harshest lessons in courage and daring. They will turn their sector's lands into large cemeteries for the enemy forces, which the aggressive Khomeyni clique has sent on this venture.

We would like to announce that the enemy's offensive has failed, that the situation now is in favor of our forces in their various positions and that operations on the front are confined to artillery duels.

ICRC DELEGATION HOLDS TALKS ON POW'S 31 OCTOBER

Meets With Hammadi

JN311202 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 31 Oct 82

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Oct (INA) -- This morning, Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi received (Jean-Pierre Hoquet), head of the operations branch of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] and his accompanying delegation.

The two sides discussed issues related to prisoners of war in Iraq and Iran and the results of the delegation's visit to Iran. The Iraqi minister reiterated Iraq's commitment to the implementation of international conventions on prisoners of war and that it opposes their violation by any party.

Dr Sa'dun Hammadi expressed Iraq's readiness to cooperate with the ICRC for removing all the obstacles that hamper its work. He also expressed his appreciation for the ICRC efforts and asked it to exert more efforts with the Iranian authorities to have them refrain from their practices against Iraqi prisoners and respect international norms and conventions governing the good treatment of prisoners.

Meets With Husayn

JN021907 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn today received (Jean-Pierre Hoquet), head of the operations branch at the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC]. The president stressed to the ICRC representative Iraq's readiness to cooperate with the ICRC in the various fields, particularly those pertaining to the care given to the Iranian POW's, the full list of POW's and allowing the Red Cross representative to meet with them, either individually or collectively.

President Saddam Husayn said that Iraq does not object to the formation of a joint Iraqi-ICRC medical committee to study the case of the sick and wounded POW's and to return to Iran those whom the committee decided should be returned due to health reasons.

This humanitarian Iraqi attitude practically embodies Iraq's continued abidance by the provisions of the 1949 Geneva Convention on caring for prisoners of war. Iraq, furthermore, is dealing with the Iranian POW's with humanitarian methods responding to the said conventions and stemming from the tolerant principles of Islam.

MINISTER AL-HASHIMI LEAVES FOR 3-DAY ALGERIA VISIT

JN010857 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0805 GMT 1 Nov 82

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Nov (INA) -- Dr 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Hashimi, minister of higher education and scientific research, left for Algiers today on a 3-day visit.

Al-Hashimi said he is carrying a written message from President Saddam Husayn to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid dealing with bilateral relations. He said he will discuss with Algerian officials relations of cooperation between Iraq and Algeria particularly in the fields of higher education and scientific research.

AR-RA'Y URGES JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN ACCORD

JN021340 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 2 Nov 82

[From the press review]

[Text] -- Under the headline "An Arab Declaration for Arab Generations," AR-RA'Y writes: His Majesty King Husayn's message to Yasir 'Arafat dealt with the results of the recent contacts concerning the Palestinian question and the spheres of cooperation and coordination between Jordan and the PLO.

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj's statement yesterday also expressed the hope of our kinfolk in the West Bank that the crystallization of the features of the future Jordanian-Palestinian relations within the framework of a federation will be expedited. The statement also stressed the need for Jordanian-Palestinian cohesion to regain the usurped land and to give more consideration to the time factor.

Thus, Jordanian-Palestinian action is being demonstrated as a central force that should be quickly completed and exploited to save the usurped land. There is no doubt that the joint suffering of the Jordanian and Palestinian people throughout the stages of the Palestine question will always constitute the basis of struggle in their unified march, which is represented by an aspiration to federation.

Since the Arabs are once again witnessing the anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, which was the starting point for all aggressive practices against their entity and civilization, they should strengthen the dam to check the flood of evildoers. This dam is represented by Jordanian-Palestinian cohesion and is the real starting point for the liberation and peace march.

AR-RA'Y concludes: The Balfour Déclaration was an exercise in evil. It is time the Arabs issued a declaration to their generations as an exercise in goodness to purify the region's history and land. This declaration means complete support for the Jordanian-Palestinian march, which will be a starting point for the removal of the nightmare of injustice and darkness.

BETHLEHEM MAYOR ON JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN ACCORD

JN011712 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Nov 82

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has stated that events in the wake of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, as well as the catastrophes and massacres, dictate that the Arab nation, particularly the PLO, must concentrate its efforts to explain the tragedy of the Palestinian people and their just cause to international public opinion. Frayj also remarked that the PLO must benefit from the positive changes that have occurred recently in world opinion.

In an interview with a PETRA correspondent, Ilyas Frayj stressed that now more than any time before, the new stage necessitates coordination between Jordan and the PLO and the need to intensify efforts to benefit from the peaceful initiatives that are under discussion for liberating the land and enabling the Palestinian people to obtain their right to determine their fate on their national soil. He emphasized the need for an agreement on a federal framework between the Jordanian and Palestinian people.

Ilyas Frayj said the West and East Banks are like the lungs of the body, making it difficult for one to work without the other, and that the Jordan River is like the spinal column holding all parts of the body together. He added that the citizens in the occupied territories are looking forward to a comprehensive and complete coordination between the Palestinian leadership and the Jordanian Government because it is the best and soundest way to achieve the aspired objectives, foremost of which are the liberation of the land and the regaining of rights.

Ilyas Frayj stated that time works against the interest of the Arab citizens in the occupied territories and that the Israeli authorities are entrenching their occupation with each passing day. They create new faits accomplis by establishing more settlements and expelling citizens.

Ilyas Frayj added that the current circumstances call for speedy implementation of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement for bolstering the political struggle that these circumstances dictate.

Ilyas Frayj concluded by saying that the economic and trade situation in the West Bank is very hard and deteriorates with each passing day, a matter which requires speedy and effective Arab financial assistance.

AD-DUSTUR: PLO TO EXPAND, REINFORCE AMMAN OFFICE

JN030814 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Nov 82 p 1

[Text] AD-DUSTUR has learned that the PLO will make some changes among the cadres and employees in its offices and bodies. AD-DUSTUR also learned that the scope of the PLO Executive Committee chairman's office in Amman will be expanded and reinforced with a number of employees.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON -- The Lebanese Foreign Ministry has sent a memorandum to the Jordanian Foreign Ministry informing it of the Lebanese Government's approval of the appointment of Mu'tasim al-Balbisi, the ambassador at the Foreign Ministry, as Jordan's ambassador to Lebanon. On this occasion, the Lebanese Ambassador in Amman Marcel Musa Nammur will hold a reception on Saturday, 13 November, in honor of Ambassador al-Balbisi. [Text] [Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Nov 82 p 1 JN]

PRESS COMMENTS ON AL-JUMAYYIL-HASSAN II TALKS

LD021240 Kuwait KUNA in English 1036 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Beirut, Nov 2 (KUNA) -- Morocco was reported Tuesday to have "approved-in-principle" a Lebanese request for dispatching units of its regular army to the war-conquered country.

The independent Lebanese daily newspaper "AN-NAHAR", which carried the report under a Rabat dateline, said the approval was granted during a one-day visit to the Arab North African kingdom by Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil who returned home at 0115 hours (local time) Tuesday.

The reported Moroccan troops, according to the newspaper report, will "participate in the multi-national force" serving in Lebanon which currently groups soldiers from the U.S., France and Italy.

The three-state MNF, which serves in Western Beirut and its southern and southeastern suburbs, is currently made up of 4,275 soldiers.

Lebanon was reported to have requested the increase of the MNF size to the 30,000 limit and the expansion of its mandate and area of operations to cover all of the 10,452-square-kilometer country.

Other newspapers, namely conservative AL-BAYRAQ, said Morocco has pledged to dispatch around 12,000 to 20,000 soldiers of its army to Lebanon.

There has been no official word regarding the reported Moroccan pledge either in Rabat or in Beirut.

Moroccan state minister for external affairs, M'hamed Boucetta, was quoted by "AN-NAHAR" as saying "I have no information now regarding this topic." The remark was given by the chief diplomat in answering a question by the paper's correspondent as to whether Morocco has agreed to Lebanon's request for participation by Moroccan troops in the MNF.

The topic, Boucetta added, "I think was discussed in talks between the king and the president." [sentence as received]

Boucetta, himself, held separate talks with Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr. Elie Salim who accompanied President al-Jumayyil in his "working visit" to Morocco. Boucetta said Morocco is "ever ready to provide Lebanon with all that it needs." Even at the military level? the paper asked. "Alsoyes," he replied.

The paper, furthermore, quoted an un-identified "Moroccan diplomatic source who participated in the summit talks" as saying Morocco is "ready to stretch a helping hand to Lebanon on all levels, the political, diplomatic and even the military levels."

Meanwhile, and in a separate Rabat datelined report, the paper said a ranking Palestinian guerrilla official flew into the Moroccan capital "at the same time that Al-Jumayyil's plane landed at Rabat's civil airport."

Salah Khalaf, member of the mainstream Palestinian guerrilla faction Fatah's Central Committee "flew into an adjacent military airport as Al-Jumayyil's plane landed at the Rabat Civil Airport," the newspaper report said.

Khalaf, according to the report, flew into Rabat "aboard a special Moroccan plane." The report, however, didn't say whether the plane was a military aircraft or a jetliner. The newspaper report said Khalaf, code named Abu Iyad, "visited the royal palace in Rabat and spent around 45 minutes there."

The report, however, didn't say whether Khalaf met the Lebanese president, nor did it say whether the Palestinian guerrilla leader held talks with Moroccan officials covering relations between Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The paper, furthermore, quoted the PLO's Rabat representative identified apparently by his code name "Abu Marwan" as saying "a Lebanese-Palestinian meeting is a must to settle pending questions." Abu Marwan was quoted by the reliable Lebanese newspaper as saying such a proposed meeting "depends on the Lebanese president's wish."

The report contradicted agency dispatches from Morocco Monday saying that Khalaf did not arrive in the Moroccan capital.

President al-Jumayyil in a statement to Moroccan television, re-produced here, confirmed that he briefed King Hassan II on "my talks in Washington," while the Moroccan monarch briefed the Lebanese president on the meeting the seven-man committee had held with the U.S. President around 11 days ago.

Al-Jumayyil said he and King Hassan "reached a common vision regarding Arab questions of which we are all suffering."

The talks in Morocco constitute President al-Jumayyil's first visit to an Arab country since he assumed office last Sept. 23. He told the television Saudi Arabia will be among other Arab states he will be visiting next. No date was set for Al-Jumayyil's forthcoming Arab tour, or tours, however.

Meanwhile, the conservative daily newspaper "AL-AHRAR," organ of Ex-President Camille Sham'un's right-wing "National Liberal Party," (NLP), quoted un-identified "security source" in a front-page report as saying "plans" are being considered to "invite Arab troops to help the Lebanese Army in patrolling the Al-Biqa' Valley and the northern Lebanese province" currently dominated by PLO guerrillas, Iranian volunteers, Libyan volunteers and Syrian soldiers of the "Arab Deterrent Forces" (ADF), the mandate of which expired last July, 27.

The provinces of the central-eastern Al-Biqa' Valley and northern Lebanon, border Syria and control three of Lebanon's main highways connecting the country with the rest of [word indistinct] and Europe across Syria and Turkey. [sentence as received]

The paper, also quoting the same sources, said [word indistinct] troops will deploy in the Al-Biqa' and northern Lebanon provinces following withdrawal of the PLO and ADF soldiers from the country within the framework of the "withdrawal of all foreign forces" from Lebanon which also covers soldiers of the Israeli occupation army who control the provinces of southern Lebanon, the Shuf, parts of Mount Lebanon and the western sector of the Al-Biqa.

The paper said such reported Arab troops will be contributed by Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Jordan. This, however, wasn't officially verified.

The paper, went out of its way to note that the three mentioned Arab states "have no political ambitions in Lebanon."

Saudi Arabia had donated troops to the ADF during its early days of service in Lebanon in accordance with Arab summit conference resolutions. The summit was held in Cairo late in Oct 1976. In the last days of the Lebanese 19-month civil war, Saudi Arabia later withdrew its contingents from the ADF without explanation.

AL-WAZZAN GOVERNMENT POLICY STATEMENT 2 NOVEMBER

NC021500 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1202 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Government policy statement read by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan at the Chamber of Deputies on 2 November -- recorded]

[Text] Mr Speaker, respected deputies: We are present here before you while incidents are legion here in our territory, around us, in the Middle East and throughout the world. It is a time of changes, preparation to move from one era into another, facing the fateful challenges that impose upon all Lebanese only one inescapable choice -- the confrontation of all these challenges with one heart, strong faith, sincere will and great sacrifice, to rescue the country, liberate ourselves, and prepare for a better future.

In Lebanon, a new Presidency has begun, for a new Lebanon, to which hopes have been attached, accompanied by wishes. Since the first days of the election of His Excellency President Amin al-Jumayyil, and his assumption of power, fundamental changes have taken place in our Lebanese reality. The results of the parliamentary and popular unanimity appeared, roads and crossing points between Beirut quarters were opened, direct contact with the world was resumed through Beirut International Airport and the Lebanese Army began deployment on the homeland territory and assumed the responsibility for our security. The international presence here has been reestablished at a level of effectiveness in keeping with the seriousness of the decision to help Lebanon, and to put an end to its predicament, partly manifested by the return of the friendly multinational forces, which reaffirmed the continuation of the sympathy of the nations [for Lebanon].

Today, a few weeks after the beginning of the new Presidency, we find before us a great record of accomplishments, crowned by a decision that cannot be reverted -- the salvation of Lebanon, in the constitutional oath speech, which was delivered by his excellency the president on 26 September. He laid down the bases of (?the government), drew up the aspects of the march, prepared for the march of the Presidency's first government, which is committed to achieving the principles and the ideas that have been introduced by him -- all of which are in line with the hoped for and expected line of salvation.

Then, his excellency the president's tour took place, which included some of the biggest capitals and quarters in the United States of America and Europe. He delivered speeches in New York, Washington, Paris, the Vatican and Rome. He also held talks and working meetings and made statements, all of which constitute a complementary group of stances that our Cabinet adopts as a framework to carry out its tasks and to shoulder its responsibility.

Esteemed deputies, Lebanon has for 8 years experienced a great deal of suffering and torture. It also sustained massive losses -- in its cities and villages there is massive destruction, in its utilities it sustained serious damage, and in its national structure it sustained deep wounds. Its institutions are exhausted and its treasury is overburdened. The resources of the state are vanishing. The departments and the institutions are burdened with difficulties and troubles. Thousands of our people are expatriates because of security, or in an imposed state of alienation, or are short of money, or morally dejected. We have no way of facing all that except by collectively agreeing on a decision, to be decisive in action and to support one another in its execution so we may secure the future we seek and the republic we dream of.

The government is intending to set up a 5-year plan -- developmental, reconstructive, including housing and modernization, to help Lebanon get over its setback and recover from its misfortunes -- to open the domains of progress before its people, and to take them into the 21st century with the help of the brothers, the friends and the participation of all the Lebanese. This plan includes, among other things, a formula for the participation of the Lebanese expatriates and those who are of Lebanese origin and have the expertise and the capabilities for the workshop of the Lebanon of the future.

Esteemed deputies, there are principles, about which we cannot be lax and to which there are no alternatives for us as Lebanese. We insist on emphasizing these principles in this statement. The first of these principles is our adherence to our free democratic parliamentary system, with all its characteristics, that stems from the essence of our constitution and legislation which has been entrenched by practice and tradition. Lebanon considers man as the greatest asset and that there can be no humanity without freedom, no freedom without democracy, and no democracy without social justice, equality, and equal opportunities. Lebanon considers law to be the limit and guarantee of freedom and that the right of the citizen in the state and society is equal to his duty toward the state and the society. The state's rights and the citizen's duties are reciprocal. No one can claim a right without performing a duty, or else the balance would be upset and the equation of democracy would fail. You and I aim to build a complete and modern state. You and I are convinced that all plans, projects, and policies cannot see the light and materialize except in an atmosphere of security and stability. There can be no security without an army to safeguard borders, to deter crime, to combat terrorism, and to repulse aggression from whatever direction.

Our army was encountered an ordeal and has been subjected to campaigns that sometimes went beyond good intentions and sought to divide and paralyze it and deprive the homeland of its power. However, the Lebanese Army -- whose patriotism and upbringing are unique and whose training is high -- no sooner given the chance, it emerged, gaining confidence and rehabilitation. The army is now performing its duties with discipline and credibility. Though a few individual mistakes appeared, prompt measures have been taken to prevent their recurrence.

The government is determined to strengthen the Lebanese Army with sound organization, sufficient personnel, and developed weapons in keeping with the magnitude of the task, mission and gravity of the situation. The building of an army which is capable of shouldering all its responsibilities on the border and inside Lebanon, and which is a factor of peace in Lebanon and the area is -- in addition to strengthening the internal security forces and public security -- a daily process to which we are committed and pledged.

Gentlemen, the army is the hand of the state and administration is its indispensable tool. Administration is like the chisel for a mason. We will take action to develop and modernize administration and provide it with qualified and moral people. Obtaining a recommendation, or processing an application, will no longer be a waste of time for a citizen or hurt his pride. New, modern and brief rules will be adopted to facilitate the processing of applications and ensure direct service for citizens without the need for connections and mediators. We will take action to ensure that the right man will be in the right place. The only yardstick will be qualifications, because a post is not and will not be given to relatives or friends of senior officials or lucky people. A post will be a place to serve and work hard. Employees will be subject to a test and to supervision. If they succeed, they will keep their job. If they fail they will be taken to account.

Regarding the judiciary, which has been crippled for some time along with many establishments, if it were not for the virtues of civilization and the morals of the Lebanese people, oppression and injustice would have prevailed. Our civilized people maintained, deep at heart, their heritage of righteousness. The judicial authorities must now help the people, establish justice and spread equality. It must strengthen the judicial system and cope with the necessities of this stage for amendments in the procedures of trials, texts of laws, judicial organization, distribution of trials, and expediting procedures and ensuring the implementation of their verdicts.

Respected deputies, before us is a difficult task, one that is very critical and delicate. However, it is not impossible as long as we believe in our right to live and that Lebanon is a national necessity at the regional and human levels. We are fully aware of what is awaiting us -- piles of accounts to settle which we will do our best to account for. We realize the extent of the problems related to life that are facing us, particularly those created or increased during the recent events. We must anticipate and prevent their aggravation and eliminate their causes.

Inflation is a phenomenon that cuases anxiety. We, like other developed states, are suffering from it. We must confront it with the appropriate solutions -- scientifically and objectively -- because the afflictions of the limited-income people, who constitute the majority of our people, are the state's afflictions. Therefore, the state will encourage the production sectors -- agricultural, industrial and services -- and secure the financial and moral support for these sectors so they can raise their participation in increasing the national income and reviving the areas. This is to be done by having an industrial, agricultural, and professional boom in every district. Also, the services sector will get a portion of the encouragement so differences can be narrowed between the areas and equal chances for progress, reconstruction, and growth can be provided.

In this domain, we would like to affirm our interest in increasing and developing the resources of the state and putting an end to the encroachments against its rights and utilities; this is an obvious task.

Moreover, the government will exert every effort to pay special attention to the educational and health sectors, so we will be able to develop our citizens according to a national education that develops him -- mind, spirit and body -- and that helps preserve our scientific credibility so our diplomas remain honored documents around the world. We must also support technical and professional education in a manner that will meet the nation's needs for specialists and technicians. We also want to secure medicines adn hospitalization equally for all citizens.

The government is aware of the importance of bringing back the Lebanese experts who are living abroad. We can no longer accept the expatriation of minds. It is time we employed our energies in developing the homeland. Thus, a complete plan, in which all productive sectors participate, is indispensable. We repeat the honored call made by his excellency the president of the republic to all Lebanese who can return to Lebanon to do so, so they can participate in developing the future Lebanon.

Respected deputies, this is our visualization of government action for the foreseeable future. But our major fear and our relentlessly sought goal remains the completion of the liberation of Lebanon from the Israeli occupation and to evacuate all non-Lebanese forces from its territory. Israel has attacked us, violated our borders, occupied our areas and reached our capital. Even though it has evacuated some places, it is still occupying large areas of our homeland, in spite of the UN and Security Council resolutions, and in spite of the fact that 5 months have elapsed since the start of the invasion.

We are working to put an end to the Israeli occupation in every inch of our territory with all the power at our disposal -- at home and abroad -- and with the help of our international friends, particularly with the states participating in the multinational forces -- the United States of America, France and Italy -- as well as the rest of the peace-loving states, to which we address our sincere thanks and gratitude. We look forward to a day in the near future, for which we are expending all efforts to see, in which no alien armed person or illegitimate gun remains anywhere on Lebanese territory. Then, we will celebrate anew our true independence day.

Honorable members, your honorable council has been, and it still is, the witness to democracy and the protector of legitimacy. It is the representative of the steadfast and patient Lebanese people, the heroic and faithful people, who are the source of all authorities and settlements. In the most critical circumstances, on the most delicate occasions, and during the most difficult turning points your honorable council has been present to testify to the truth and to struggle for freedom. We trust that a great deal will be achieved through close cooperation between us -- council and government -- to carry out our joint duty toward Lebanon, toward its new generations, toward its students, laborers and farmers, toward its thinkers and intelligentsia, and toward its heritage and mission, so it can recover its pioneering role in the Arab arena and environment. Lebanon is committed to every cause of justice and right, and is in solidarity with the sisterly states in the fateful situations, and in serving the joint issues, including the Palestinian issue.

We also would like to affirm our desire to strengthen the cordial relations and the neighborly ties with our sister Syria. Regarding the Palestinians who are now lawfully residing in Lebanon, waiting to return to their homeland, they will receive the required consideration and the right to security and protection. All Lebanese laws will be applied to them without exception.

The government is ready for Lebanon to regain its international status in the world, where it has millions of sons who have left Lebanon and settled in cities and rural areas but remain loyal to Lebanon and faithful to its cause. In addition to its kinfolk in the world at large, Lebanon has hundreds of millions of friends who look to Lebanon with love and deal with it with respect, harbor good feelings for it and extend their hands to help it.

Your Excellency the Speaker, esteemed deputies, confronting the problems and the issues facing us -- we know that the fraternal and friendly countries are ready to help us to tackle them -- requires swift initiatives and effective action. In addition, this requires legislating new laws or reconsidering certain current legislation. Thus, the need arises for the government to have exceptional powers in certain issues which are directly linked with the goals we have pledged to achieve. Proceeding from our confidence that your esteemed Chamber of Deputies will respond to the need for facilitating government work in serving the country by giving the government the required powers, we will enclose with this Cabinet statement an urgent draft bill requesting certain exceptional powers for a period ending by 30 June 1983. This is on the understanding that the endorsement of the vote of confidence will be considered an endorsement of the aforementioned law and acknowledging its provisions, which are limited to the following articles:

The government, for a period ending on 30 June 1983, has been permitted to issue legislative decrees at the Council of Ministers to amend or cancel valid legislative laws or to enact new provisions regarding defensive, security and public safety affairs, and social, health, economic, financial, development, information and educational affairs, including the right to borrow and lend money.

The government has been permitted to reconsider the following laws: the laws relevant to the creation of ministries, public departments, public establishments and corporate bodies from the public sector, administrative organizations, officials, employees and other workers from the public sectors, [passage as heard] the laws of judicial organization, and judicial and judges' affairs; the laws and provisions for punishment and trial procedures; the laws pertinent to the law, judicial and contract professions; the laws relevant to appealing law cases, official registers and duplicating lost official and private documents; the law locating and regulating administrative districts; the law on general elections; the municipality law; the rent law; the naturalization law; the tax and fees laws to modernize them and to promote the treasury resources by amending the rate and amount of taxes and fees or dividing them into installments or exempting them; the laws of building, housing and civil organization. The government has the right to establish or abolish the economic companies, including mixed companies, and to abolish or merge public utilities with these companies or with public departments or establishments. The legislative decrees will be submitted as soon as they are issued to the Chamber of Deputies. This law will come into force as of the second day after it is published by posting it at the entrance to the Prime Ministry headquarters.

Your Excellency the Speaker, esteemed deputies, these are the headlines of our speech today. We submit it to you, aspiring to obtain your esteemed confidence. We will cooperate with you under the guidance of his excellency the president of the republic for the benefit of the people and for the pride of the homeland. Thank you, and long live Lebanon.

Deputies Comment

NC021414 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1145 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Excerpts] The government today presented its statement to the Chamber of Deputies. Speaker Kamil al-As'ad adjourned the session until Thursday to enable the deputies to study the comprehensive and detailed statement which was delivered by Prime Minister al-Wazzan.

In his statement, Prime Minister al-Wazzan demanded that the government be given extensive extraordinary powers to reconsider the laws on the creation of ministries and administrative departments, and the laws pertaining to general elections, municipalities, rent, citizenship, taxes, customs, ports, housing and civil service.

The comments by some deputies show that they refuse to give the government the extraordinary powers it has asked. Former President Sham'un said: This is the first time in my 40 years of political life that I have encountered a government statement demanding extraordinary powers with such a magnitude and in such a manner. If the government insists on its demands for extraordinary powers, its future will be in doubt.

Former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam said: I wish this precedent did not exist--a precedent represented by the government statement containing the bill on extraordinary powers for which the government is asking. This is particularly so because I saw today almost total unanimity in supporting the government. Salam expressed hope that the text of the bill will be separated from the statement in the coming session and that the bill will be discussed separately.

Deputy 'Abd al-Latif az-Zayn remarked that the Chamber of Deputies cannot give the government extensive legislative powers or extraordinary powers. He said there are precedents showing the mistakes the Chamber has committed in this regard. He affirmed that the Chamber of Deputies is not ready to give up all its legislative powers.

Deputy Salim al-Ma'luf declared that he refuses to give the government any extraordinary powers in any field.

Deputy August Bacchus maintained that the government has committed a political mistake. He expressed hope that it would be possible to correct this mistake, because the country cannot bear a political crisis or a schism between the executive and legislative powers.

Deputy Amin al-Hafiz declared that the statement must be discussed because it infringes on the right of the Chamber of Deputies. He affirmed that he will clarify his stand in the coming sessions.

JUNBLATT CONTACTS AL-JUMAYYIL, DILLON ON CLASHES

NC022024 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Within the framework of the current efforts to resolve the deteriorating situation in the mountain, Walid Junblatt, who is now in Stockholm, today contacted former minister Marwan Hamadah. Hamadah conveyed the telephone message from Junblatt, the leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, to President Amin al-Jumayyil. It stressed the need for cohesion to stop the bloodshed and foil the conspiracy in the mountain.

Hamadah also conveyed a message from Junblatt to U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Robert Dillion. In addition, he contacted [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam and reviewed the situation in the mountain and the current efforts to review the situation in the mountain and the current efforts to resolve it and prevent a further deterioration.

Former Minister Khalid Junblatt visited B'adba Palace for the same purpose. It has been learned that Walid Junblatt will return to Beirut tomorrow afternoon to tackle the situation in the mountain.

AR-RA'Y: LEBANON CONSIDERING U.S. BASE IN SOUTH

JN021255 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Nov 82 pp 1, 17

[Excerpt] Beirut -- The AR-RA'Y correspondent has learned from a high-level Lebanese source, who is informed on the current negotiations to withdraw the foreign forces from Lebanon, that one of the solutions being proposed to guarantee the security and safety of the international border between Lebanon and occupied Palestine is the establishment of a U.S. military base in the port of An-Naqurah or in the headquarters of the UN emergency forces in southern Lebanon.

The same source added that negotiations on this subject are currently underway among the parties concerned, especially between the Lebanese Government and the Reagan administration. U.S. roving envoy Morris Draper is expected to communicate his government's final position on the subject during his current tour of the area.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES ITALY'S GIULIO ANDREOTTI 2 NOV

JN021808 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Giulio Andreotti, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Italian Parliament, at 1300 today. Present at the meeting were Dr Muhsin Bilal, chairman of the People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee, and the Italian ambassador in Damascus. The two sides discussed the state of affairs in the region in light of recent developments and the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Expressing satisfaction with his talks in Syria, Andreotti said that his visit to Al-Qunaytirah reminded him of his visit to Leningrad after World War II. The devastation he saw in both cities calls for more work to achieve peace.

Andreotti reiterated his rejection of the invasion of Lebanon and the massacres committed there. He said there is a persistent need to establish a just and durable peace in the region and that Italy is very concerned about this.

President Hafiz al-Asad reviewed the history of the Israeli aggression in the region, stressing that the past days have confirmed that Israel is an expansionist force working against the achievement of peace. Condemning the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the president said this invasion is part of an expansionist attempt to impose hegemony and is not related to the Israeli claims that it was necessary for its security.

The president said that peace is more of an action than words. He asserted that we will not be able to find peace unless we face reality. He added that the enemies want us to surrender under the slogan of peace. However, this is mere illusion. History has demonstrated that peoples do not surrender nor squander their rights under the pressure of an unjust force.

The president emphasized that we will continue to make every possible effort to bring about peace, yet we will always separate peace and surrender.

Andreotti Interview

JN022131 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2040 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Telephone dispatch by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Damascus Louis Faris, carried in the daily "Panorama" program -- live or recorded]

[Text] In an exclusive interview with our radio this evening, Giulio Andreotti, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Italian Parliament and former prime minister, said his country is quite ready to increase the number of its military forces operating in Lebanon within the multinational force upon a request from the Lebanese president and in light of Lebanon's interests. He stressed his country's concern for Lebanon's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. He called for the complete withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces, because the presence of these forces undermines Lebanon's sovereignty.

He noted that Syria is ready to withdraw its forces without any conditions, whereas Israel is setting impossible conditions. He added that withdrawal should take place without making any conditions.

Asked about his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad today, which lasted about 2 hours, he warmly praised President al-Asad and described him as a great leader who gave him an unexpected good impression about his intentions toward Lebanon. He added: I am convinced that President al-Asad harbors all love and respect for Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil. The Syrian president is ready to exert utmost efforts for Lebanon to regain its strength and so President al-Jumayyil can spread the Lebanese people's sovereignty over all their territory.

Regarding withdrawal from Lebanon, Andreotti said that President al-Asad said he was firmly convinced that the Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon is not a problem.

Andreotti also said that he met with representatives of the Jewish community in Syria upon his own request and was convinced that the Jewish community in Syria enjoys complete freedom of work, workship and life like all other Syrians.

I asked him: Have you noticed any limitations imposed on the Jewish community? He answered: The community representatives told me there are no limitations except for some security limitations that apply to all Syrian citizens without any exceptions.

Finally, I asked him about his attitude toward the Palestinian issue. He replied by saying that he supports giving the Palestinians their legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination and establishment of an independent stage. In reply to another question, he said: Injustice done to the Palestinian people must be stopped.

On the possibility of resolving the Middle East crisis, Andreotti said that the problem is difficult and that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon increased the difficulties. He added: This does not mean that we must lose hope of achieving a just and comprehensive peace.

CORRECTION TO AL-ASAD INTERVIEW ON LEBANON

The following correction to the item entitled "Hafiz al-Asad Interviewed on Lebanon, USSR," published in the 2 November Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT on page H 5, is supplied from the Paris-based Arabic-language magazine AN-NAHAR AL'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI, which carried the interview with Hafiz al-Asad in its 1-7 November edition on pages 4-10:

Paragraph three, from line two should read: "Under Israeli military superiority it is difficult for anyone, whether in Syria or outside Syria, to hope for the attainment of a truly just peace," substituting the word "Syria" for "Lebanon."

FINANCE MINISTER THREATENS TO RESIGN OVER VOTE

TA022022 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Finance Minister Yoram Aridor tonight threatened to resign because of the coalition's failure in the vote taken today in the Knesset at the end of the debate on the economy. The coalition wanted to sum up the discussion with a resolution saying that the Knesset has noted the finance minister's speech, but the vote resulted in a tie, 40-40, and a tie means that the resolution was not passed.

Our correspondent Tzvi Yisra'eli reported that the voting angered Minister Aridor, and he said that if the Knesset does not accept his announcement, this means a no-confidence vote against him, and he is ready to hand in his resignation. In front of about 20 people in the Knesset, among them Knesset members, correspondents and visitors, the angry minister said that he will not continue to take part in the Knesset voting until the coalition unites. He firmly demanded calling a special meeting of all coalition members tomorrow morning. He repeated this demand even after the coalition heads told him that for technical reasons such a discussion cannot be held tomorrow morning.

DRAPER CONVEYS ISRAELI DEMAND TO LEBANESE

TA030536 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Nov 82

[Text] Israel insists on its position that only one committee be appointed for the negotiations with Lebanon and that it be headed by senior political officials. This is because the issue involves security arrangements of a political character, which is different from the cease-fire agreement that existed between the two countries before. Israel would like to ensure that Lebanon will not press to form a committee headed by army officers, and our military correspondent Shum'el Tal has learned that this demand was passed to Beirut by U.S. envoy Morris Draper.

JEWISH SETTLER INJURED IN WEST BANK DISTURBANCES

TA021720 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] This afternoon, an inhabitant of the settlement of 'Ofra, north of Jerusalem, received head injuries from stone-throwing when he was passing by the Al-'Amarah refugee camp near Ramallah. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the injured man was hospitalized and that security forces imposed a curfew on the camp.

There were several incidents of demonstrations, stone throwing and road blocking in Judaea and Samaria today to mark the anniversary of the Balfour Declaration.

RAMALLAH TEACHERS COLLEGE CLOSED 3 NOVEMBER

TA030631 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 3 Nov 82

[Text] The civilian administration in Judaea and Samaria has closed the Ramallah teachers college until further notice. This follows disturbances involving its students yesterday.

BOMB DISCOVERED, DISMANTLED IN JERUSALEM

TA030520 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Nov 82

[Text] A bomb was discovered a short while ago in a taxi stand at the Nabulus Gate in Jerusalem. Police sappers succeeded in safely dismantling the bomb.

DRUZE LEADER SEEKS HABIB'S AID IN ENDING CLASHES

TA021127 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 2 Nov 82 p 2

[Report by Yehuda Tzur]

[Text] The Druze inhabitants of the Galilee yesterday demanded that the IDF intervene immediately to stop the fighting between the Phalangists and the Druze inhabitants of the 'Alayh area.

Israeli Druze spiritual leader Shaykh Amin Tarif sent a message to a representative of the U.S. Embassy in Israel, requesting that special envoy Philip Habib quickly intervene to stop the clashes between the two sides. Druze soldiers on leave in Galilee villages said yesterday that, in their view, even without direct military action, the IDF could stop the fighting within a short time. They said that the fact that the intervention of a single IDF officer succeeded in stopping the fighting in one of the Druze villages in the 'Alayh area 2 days ago proves their point.

They also maintained that the Phalangists would not make any move without the IDF's prior approval.

IDF UNITS INTERVENE IN CHRISTIAN-DRUZE CLASHES

TA021805 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Today the IDF intervened in fighting that took place between Druze and Christians in the Ash-Shuf mountains. It imposed a curfew on two villages and detained people suspected of firing at our forces. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports:

[Tal -- live or recorded] The force that the IDF is maintaining in the Ash-Shuf mountains is mainly occupied with routine security work, and refrains as far as possible from entering into direct confrontations with the fighting sides.

For the last 3 days, there has been heavy firing between the Christians and Druze, intermittently, and both sides sometimes send representatives to the IDF aid unit located in the 'Alayh area and ask the IDF to intervene.

This morning, following a resumption of the exchanges of fire between the Druze and the Christians in the 'Ayn Zhalta region, a Phalangist force entered the village of (Barih) to collect some of the Christian soldiers who were there. When they reached the Druze quarter, fire was opened at them and shots were exchanged throughout the morning. Seven local inhabitants were killed by the firing from both sides. The dead include two Christian women and a Druze youth. An IDF unit which happened to be near the village this morning was caught in the exchange of fire, and one IDF soldier was wounded. An Israeli officer then intervened in the conflict and brought about a cease-fire in both camps.

A few hours later, the Druze in the village of (Nabrat) opened fire at a Christian force in the village. Here, too, exchanges of fire developed and three local inhabitants were killed. An IDF unit intervened at about noon and entered both villages in order to separate the combatants. It also imposed a curfew on both those villages and detained several people suspected of having opened fire at our forces.

For the moment, there is calm in that area and the IDF is staying in both villages. Let us note at this point that the Lebanese Army is also in no hurry to take upon itself missions of the sort that the IDF is dealing with -- missions of making peace between the sides, whose grudges with each other stretch back for years and both of which have been equipped with weapons from as far back as the period when the Syrians controlled the area. The IDF policy, then, is to try and compromise, mediate and not introduce forces unless this is absolutely essential.

EGYPTIAN CONSUL TO RETURN TO ELAT 10 NOVEMBER

TA021849 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1842 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Elat, 2 Nov (ITIM) -- Egyptian Consul to Elat Hasan 'Isa, who left Elat for Egypt a few days ago, is due to return to Elat next Wednesday, 10 November. This has been learned by the ITIM correspondent in Elat.

The entire consular staff has remained in Elat and is continuing to supply entry visas to the southern Sinai to all those requesting them, as in the past, as long as they have the required papers.

Egyptian Consul Hasan 'Isa, who has become well integrated into Israeli society in Elat, informed all his confidants as long as 10 days ago that he was going to travel to Cairo and would return next Wednesday. The trip to Cairo was planned without any connection to the Tabah affair.

Local sources claim, nevertheless, that Hasan 'Isa's trip originated in his desire not to be in Elat on the day the Avia Sonesta Hotel opened.

U.S. WORKING TO EASE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN TENSION

TA030550 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Nov 82

[Text] In the last few days, the United States has been working behind the scenes to ease the tension and to settle disputes between Israel and Egypt. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the U.S. ambassadors in the two countries are working toward this goal. Ambassador Samuel Lewis met last night with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and the foreign minister recounted all the subjects still pending between Jerusalem and Cairo which were frozen since the beginning of the Peace for Galilee war. Shamir again expressed Israel's willingness to discuss the Tabah dispute but, he says, this should not be separated from the other problems.

Ambassador Alfred Atherton is working in Cairo to identify the points of dispute between Isreal and Egypt in order to settle the dispute.

BEGIN TO TESTIFY BEFORE INQUIRY COMMISSION 8 NOV

TA021625 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Prime Minister Begin has been summoned to testify on Monday before the commission investigating the incidents in Beirut. His testimony will be heard, at least partly, in public session.

The collectors of material for the commission today watched television scenes that were taken in the Beirut area in those days. These are reports passed on by television correspondents, including reports or excerpts that were not shown at the time. At the end of the week, the crew, and perhaps even the commission members will view the reports that were passed on by foreign correspondents to their own stations. Tomorrow the commission will hear testimonies, in camera, from IDF officers.

TRANSCRIPT OF SHARON'S PUBLIC REMARKS AT INQUIRY

TA271705 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 26, 27, 28 Oct 82

["Transcript" of testimony by Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon before the commission of inquiry investigating the events of the refugee camps in Beirut, on 25 October in Jerusalem]

[Text] Justice Kahan: I would ask you, Mr Defense Minister, to state your name, your position, and how long you have served in this position.

Minister of Defense: Ari'el Sharon. I have served in my position as defense minister since the last government was established, prior to which I served as a Cabinet minister for 4 years in another post.

Kahan: Your last post in the army, if you could tell us.

Sharon: My last post in the army, honored members of the commission, was GOC Southern Command; after I was discharged from the army, on 15 July 1973, I was called for reserve service on Yom Kippur and I served for nearly 4 months as the commander of a division on the southern front, the canal front.

Kahan: By law, I must warn every witness who comes before the commission, and, of course, you as well, that the testimony must be only true and all true testimony, and that the law provides punishment if this is not done.

We have received a letter from you bearing the date of 24 October in which you inform us that matters which you intend to bring before the commission are interlaced with state secrets of the utmost secrecy and should not, in your opinion, be revealed publicly, out of state security considerations, and therefore your position is that first of all you should be permitted to make an opening statement and later on we will decide on the matter of making the testimony privileged. According to the provisions of the law on inquiry commissions, the sessions have to be public except when the commission is convinced that closing the session, conducting the meeting behind closed doors, is required for protecting the security of the state or protecting its foreign relations and other reasons that in this instance are not too important. We will ask you, therefore, to open your remarks with those issues that you feel can be revealed in a public session without affecting state security matters or foreign ties. If you will come to issues which you feel should be stated only in closed session, a non-public session, tell us so, and we shall decide in such case according to the authority vested in us by law. We apparently shall also ask you questions, perhaps still in public session; and again, if you cannot answer the question fully -- or cannot answer the questions at all -- for reasons of protecting the security of the state or its foreign ties, so inform us, and again we will come to a decision about it in a session in which the public is not present. Now, please, begin your remarks.

I would like also just to recall the matter of the authority of the commission and what the commission is dealing with. According to our order of appointment, our function is to investigate all of the facts and factors connected with the atrocities perpetrated by a unit of the Lebanese Forces against the civilian population in the Sabra and Shatila camps -- and perhaps you will explain to us in your opening remarks what is meant by this expression Lebanese Forces as it is mentioned in our authorization order.

Defense Minister Sharon: Members of the commission, with your permission I will make some introductory remarks. Later, when these are concluded, or when the members of the commission would like me to give my explanation in the matter of the Lebanese Forces, please tell me so.

I am grateful that I have been given the opportunity to come and testify before this honorable commission. On the 6th of June 1982, we set out on a defensive war against the organizations of terror of the PLO, after long years of losses of life and suffering by our citizens. Space is too short to list all of the PLO cirmes, which included the most horrible atrocities, from hijacking aircraft, attacks in the heart of Israel, the murder of the athletes in Munich, the murder of boys and girls in Ma'alot, the murder of the children of Avivim, the massacre on the coastal road and the turning of the lives of the residents of the Galilee into an insufferable nightmare. This organization of murderers has set out on a mission to attack Israelis and Jews without distinction; and indeed, this it did over the past 17 years, in Israel and throughout the world, while its political program calls for the annihilation of the State of Israel. The ideology of murder and the detailed orders for hundreds of terrorist operations came out of Beirut. The terrorist PLO turned Lebanon into a terrorist state and Beirut into a local, regional and international center of terror; and it must be recognized as being responsible for the deaths of innocent people in Israel and Lebanon and every other place in which its agents operated.

No one in the world set out to settle the heavy blood account of this organization, and, except for lip service, no one lifted a finger in order to demolish this center of terrorism which threatened us from the north. Only the State of Israel set out to do this, in its resolution to change the situation at its source because the matter affects the essence of its existence. As in all the wars of Israel, so too in this war we exercised cautionary steps at all levels in order to guard against harming civilians. We occupied ourselves with the subject not just once in the meetings of the Cabinet, as well as in the discussions within the IDF and the rest of the security branches, as to how to deal with terrorists who were fighting in the midst of civilian population and who were hiding behind its back. To the best of my belief and my cognizance of the facts, there is no army in the world, and no government in the world, which did so much in a period of difficult governmental conditions as we did in Lebanon in order to reduce injuries and suffering among the civilian population -- to such an extent that in the course of the war, particularly along the coastal route leading to Beirut, we suffered, I believe, losses in dead and wounded as the IDF bravely fought to destroy the massive infrastructure of the terrorists, simultaneously with absolute distinction not, as much as possible, to hurt innocents; and I shall later detail this painful chapter.

We have not deviated from our path or our principles of warfare and morality. We tried as much as possible to strike at selective targets; and if there were injuries to civilians, they were accidental and unintentional. Even in the days of the heavy fighting during the siege of Beirut, fighting in a built-up area densely populated with civilians, we were strict about the ethical use of arms.

From the beginning of operational planning, we resolved that we must do everything to annihilate the headquarters, commanders and bases of the PLO in West Beirut without going in there. And indeed, with the coordination of military measures and diplomatic negotiations we were successful in bringing to fruition that which many good people had deemed to be impossible. The State of Israel, the people of Israel, the IDF brought about the expulsion of the terrorist organizations in West Beirut at the end of August, beginning of September. A unique operation. The result paved the way for assuring the remainder of our goals in Lebanon: removal of all foreign forces, guaranteeing peace for the Galilee by means of a security strip, and normalization of relations with Lebanon in anticipation of peaceful coexistence between the two nations.

We also knew during the evacuation of the terrorists that the terrorists, in violation of their obligations, left behind some 2,000 people, fortified with weapons, arms caches -- which included heavy weapons -- and also an infrastructure of political and military leadership; however, we delayed dealing with this until a later stage.

The murder of Bashir al-Jumayyil, on 14 September, created an urgency for immediate action. There was a danger that the terrorists would again seize key points; therefore, we made the decision to enter West Beirut in coordination with all of the forces that were capable of assisting us; and this was also -- and essentially -- in order to prevent further casualties to our forces. This subject of loss of life preoccupied us and did not cease to disturb us since the beginning of the war, and certainly much more so in the last stages, at the time of the breakthrough into West Beirut. We had a single purpose: to eliminate the remnants of the terrorists and their bases before they succeeded in turning the situation upside down. Again, we did everything at all levels, as much as was humanly possible, in order to prevent injuries to civilians. IDF soldiers and commanders who fought in those days, beginning on 15 September, and who paid for this with their blood, conducted themselves in accordance with the strictest rules of the morality of war. Not one of them, just as not one us, did not imagine in his worst dream the terrible scenes that were revealed to us in Sabra and Shatila.

I want to say, and on behalf of the entire defense establishment, that not one of us foresaw -- nor could have foreseen -- the horrors that were perpetrated in Sabra and Shatila. These atrocities stand in contradiction not only to the values toward which we were educated and we teach, but also in profound contradiction to the interests of the State of Israel, in every area: educational, social, military, national and political. We were surprised, astounded and shocked by the massacre that took place in those neighborhoods of Beirut. Those who carried out such a deed are foreign elements whose place is not conceded among civilized people; foreign in the sense that they are not Israelis and foreign absolutely to our tradition and our education, of our civilians and our soldiers.

There were those who attempted to argue throughout the world that it was Israel's hands which shed this blood, in actuality or by oversight, and caused by this one of the most terrible blood libels that the Jewish people has known; an attempt to intentionally stigmatize us with the mark of Cain for generations. Those who carried out the slaughter in Shatila are not -- and will not be -- found on the witness stand; they have already acquitted themselves and accused us, as have many in the entire world. My hope is that this attempt will not succeed.

With your permission, I will begin with presentation of evidence; and I will attempt to present before you the entire and full circumstances, the considerations and the actions that were taken by us in order to assure the attainment of the goals, according to all the rules and procedures, and while observing the ethics of war.

I would like, with the permission of the members of the inquiry commission, to give an answer to the question that I was asked at the beginning. I have in my possession a chart, whose headline is the Lebanese Forces, which details the varied make-up of the forces. It stresses the political area and it notes the structure of the Lebanese Forces, who in everyday speech have come to be called the Phalangists. But one must remember that the Phalangists are indeed the major component, but there are other, smaller components which are also included within the Lebanese Forces. On this chart, which I would like to present to the commission...

Kahan: We shall accept it.

Sharon: Please.

Kahan: The document is exhibit 41.

Sharon: In this document one can find both the composition of the political leadership and the military structure. One who studies the chart -- and I shall certainly yet in the course of my testimony reach my contacts with the Lebanese Forces -- but he who studies the chart can immediately notice that we are not dealing here with a gang of some sort, but rather an ordered organization, organized, with a political structure, on the one hand, that takes decisions and has a military leadership system that is built like a regular, organized army in every respect. The Lebanese Forces are forces that had a small regular nucleus and a large number of reservists. In general, service there was often built on a system whereby men would go about their civilian jobs during the day and show up and report for duty in the evening. They had an organized, regular reserve system; I had the opportunity to see the reserve deployment of the Lebanese Forces on the morning of 15 September, when I visited Beirut. They had that day mobilized the system. I must tell the members of the commission that they looked like organized, regular units, disciplined in every respect.

Kahan: What was known about the Phalangists' attitude toward the Palestinian population in Lebanon and about their behavior toward them in the past, up until Bashir's assassination?

Sharon: The Phalangists' attitude to the Palestinian population -- whose number in Lebanon is approximately 270,000, of whom about 40,000 are Lebanese citizens (these are UNWRA statistics; we know from experience that UNWRA's numbers are usually exaggerated, therefore it is likely that the number is amller, maybe between 200 to 250 thousand, but I have found it appropriate to rely upon UNWRA's numbers) -- as I mentioned: 270,000, of whom about 40,000 are Lebanese citizens. There is no doubt that among the Christian population -- in general, I think that such feelings exist also among the population -- I shall present you, with your permission, the documentation of the population.

Kahan: Document exhibit 42.

Sharon: I would say the attitude of the Christian population -- but I would say, with modification, also of the Moslem population (and the Moslem population of Lebanon is divided into a Shi'ite and Sunni population) -- is an attitude of opposition, without a doubt, an attitude of seeing the Palestinians as a burden and endless bother. One must understand that the war in 1975, accepted and referred to as the civil war, actually, in its essence, was a war between terrorist organizations and the Christians, who also are divided into sects, etc. So that there is no doubt that antagonism exists, even sharp antagonism, between the permanent population of Lebanon, in its entirety, especially the Christians, toward the Palestinian population.

Kahan: Was there knowledge of previous massacres, before Bashir's assassination, between the diverse segments of the population, or between various rivals in Lebanon?

Sharon: I would like to divide that into two periods: the period before we were in Lebanon, and the period since we've been in Lebanon. Before we were in Lebanon -- meaning, between the years '75 and 6 June '82 -- there were massive massacres, both of the Christians by the terrorists and of terrorists and the Palestinian population by Christians. The most well-known places, familiar in those days, is the slaughter of thousands of Christians in -- and the utter destruction of -- Ad-Damur.

Kahan: Who perpetrated this slaughter?

Sharon: The terrorist organizations of the PLO and massacre of Palestinian terrorists in Tall az-Za'tar and (Jaysh al-Basha) by the Lebanese Forces -- perhaps they weren't called by that name yet, and perhaps those comprising the command were different, despite the fact that Amin al-Jumayyil himself was among those operating there. This means it is absolutely clear that Phalangists also acted. It is possible that the Sham'un's were more powerful then, the Phalangists less powerful, but, all in all, there was activity.

That was the situation until we came. Since we entered Lebanon, not that there haven't been incidents of killing -- in general, one must understand that we are talking about totally different norms -- but there have been no massacres; and furthermore, I would say that in all the actions into which units of the Lebanese Forces were brought under the direction and approval of the IDF they acted as a military unit in every respect, behaving, I would say, in a more or less reasonable fashion. And I would even define it as reasonable in Lebanese terms, even very reasonable.

The places where such forces were in action: They were in action in the neighborhood of Ar-Rayhan and at the Sciences Faculty; they took the Jumhur junction (in the Jumhur area, east of Beirut) on the day B'hamdun and 'Alayh were taken, as per our order -- in this case, my direct order on the spot-- in order to save lives of our soldiers and perhaps more easily identify terrorists -- they have this ability much more so than we, in distinguishing the dialects of the local population; they were introduced into the mopping up of the road between 'Alayh and Suq al-Gharb. This was the road that descends from 'Alayh to Ad-Damur. There was another action that, true, wasn't in a military action but it was carried out in the wake of murders in the area, in the Ash-Shuf mountains, in a place called Bayt ad-Din, where there was an action of murder of Christians by Druze, involving a number of people, an inverted action. We sent to the place a unit of the Lebanese Forces and their behavior was faultless. So that if, honored members of the commission, I were to sum up the point, I would say that in the past there were (massacres); from the time we have been there, there were no instances of massacres in the sense that we see the concept today, as it is presented today. To the best of my knowledge, there were none.

Kahan: I understand from your words that there were no instances of massacres of women and children, what was the attitude of the Phalangists to the terrorists who fell into their hands, according to the reports that were in our possession, up until the assassination of Bashir al-Jummayyil.

Sharon: I would prefer, with your permission, to answer this question, if you were to be willing, in closed session, because then I would perhaps be more specific about detailed facts.

Kahan: In the contacts you had with Phalange people, with the top echelon of the Phalange, did you hear from them plans about what would happen to the Palestinian population in Lebanon once they came to power or to govern?

Sharon: This subject came up and was discussed, or more correctly was stated essentially in connection with the handling of the question of the refugees who were left without shelter in southern Lebanon, and indeed, the Christians -- and I refer to them in the overall term Phalangists, as we are using it -- did not want the Palestinians to be rehabilitated in southern Lebanon, and in general, I supposed that they tended towards creating conditions so that eventually the Palestinians would leave Lebanon.

Together with this, one must remember that the Lebanese, when they spoke of Palestinians, never related to the number that we specified. When they speak of Palestinians, they relate to a figure of half a million Palestinians; I even once heard from their mouths a figure of 600,000 Palestinians, and I judged that understandably they were exaggerating for the sake of magnifying the weight of the problem that had been placed upon them. But, in my opinion, even if we relate to the smaller number, I myself do not believe that they saw the possibility of a solution to the problem other than finding of a place for the Palestinians to go. This matter came up in discussions; it is likely that I will relate to discussions or several discussions that were held on this subject when I testify before you in closed session. But without doubt this subject bothered them, and they saw in the Palestinian population a seed that absolutely was liable to create situations of disquiet and instability in Lebanon.

Kahan: Can you tell us of any special or concrete statements of what would be done with the refugee camp areas, for example?

Sharon: I don't remember any concrete, specific statements; but I will be happy perhaps to refresh my memory with one of the documents that I have turned over to you.

Baraq: It speaks of the destruction of the camps.

Sharon: We made clear to the Phalangists that we would not allow destruction. There was an attempt at destruction of a camp called Al-Miyah Was Miyah near Sidon.

Kahan: Approximately when was that?

Sharon: It was before...

Kahan: June-July?

Sharon: I believe it was later. In the course of the days we will be able to give you the exact date. We intervened. Moreover, all of our demands of the Lebanese Forces to increase their pressure on the Lebanese Government -- and I am still speaking of the period of President Sarkis -- to bring about the hastened building and finding of a solution, did not go well. On the one hand, we prevented the destruction, we did not permit them to enter to destroy; on the other hand, we applied pressure on them to build dwellings or alternate housing. They opposed permanent building.

Kahan: They, meaning the Government of Lebanon as it was then?

Sharon: One must understand that the Lebanese Government, also the previous one, the Sarkis government, or the government headed by Al-Wazzan, during the period of Sarkis' presidency, was a government in which there also were Christian ministers; and among these Christians were ministers who were connected with the Lebanese Forces or who had contacts with the Lebanese Forces. And through these pipelines we maintained contact -- I will be more specific about this later -- including people and so forth, whose identity I would I would not like to reveal, lest some harm come to them.

I say that our tendency on the one hand was to find a solution; theirs was not to permit a permanent solution -- with the situation having been that we were applying pressure on UNRWA. In the end, this pressure also brought results: Like today, they are putting up tent camps. And they are opposing construction, and we at the same time are preventing them from destroying camps.

Kahan: After he was murdered, after it was clear that Bashir was murdered, or even before it was clear that Bashir was murdered, when there was only the report that there was an assassination attempt against Bashir and there was a possibility that he was killed -- what were your actions as far as the steps that had to be taken? On the same day, 14 September, in the afternoon hours, I understand or in the evening hours.

Sharon: I was on my way from the south in the direction of Tel Aviv when I received a call to contact a certain man at a certain telephone number. I stopped at one of the IDF camps on the way; I made contact and I received the report.

Kahan: About the assassination?

Sharon: Yes, about the assassination. That same day I immediately went to my office.

Kahan: At approximately what time?

Sharon: I see that the report was; I received it in the vicinity of 4.00-5.00, around 4.00 (p.m.). I arrived at my office and I held a series of consultations; I spoke with the various elements dealing with this topic and those elements that were designated, whether this be the Mosad, the head of security service, the director of military intelligence. The director of military intelligence was at that time on his way to Rosh Pinna. I asked that he contact me, and he did contact me, and it seems to me that we spoke at least twice. The director of military intelligence suggested that we go to Beirut that evening. I concluded then that the chief of staff should be the one to go north and that we would go up in the morning hours. I would say that until 7.00 in the evening on Tuesday, 14 September, I held consultations with the chief of staff, (as I said) I spoke with the director of military intelligence, I consulted with the head of the Mosad, I spoke also with the head of the general security services. We analyzed and we assessed the serious problems which could develop in the event that Bashir had indeed been murdered. I also spoke with the prime minister on the phone with regard to the various possible implications, with my estimation and position being that as long as none of our people had seen him alive, it must be assumed that, given the kind of explosion this was, he did not survive.

Baraq: In the framework of your estimations -- first you spoke of the possibility that the terrorists would return to their arms and bolster their military strength -- were there other considerations beyond the military consideration of the strengthening of the terrorists? Was there a consideration of harm to the civilian population by the Christians?

Sharon: The central problem facing us was -- perhaps I'll say first, with your permission, a word about the subject of the Lebanese Forces as I saw them, as I came to know them, met with them dozens of times. The Christians in Lebanon, the establishment of the Lebanese Forces -- this is not a gang of hotheads. This is a thinking establishment -- it is possible that their considerations are in accordance with their own concepts -- it is a thinking establishment, it is not an establishment that acts according to emotions, it is an establishment that... has a central command, both -- if I emphasize this -- as a distinct patriarchal system: At the top of this pyramid stands Pierre al-Jumayyil, an interesting figure in himself; his son Bashir stood at the head of the forces; the chief of staff of the forces was married to his granddaughter; the deputy chief of staff...

Kahan: The chief of staff of the forces, you mean Fadi Afram?

Sharon: Yes, married to his granddaughter. Another one of the chief commanders is actually his grandson -- I don't want to mention his name -- really his grandson. We are talking about educated people. I want to emphasize to the commission -- I would certainly be happy to read, but since we are still in open session, I won't read but will only submit the document for your perusal and afterwards, with the help of my remarks, I shall come to back to it. Perhaps I'll tell you some details without mentioning names, as I look at the people at the top. One of them is a mechanical engineer...

Kahan: O.K., here there are details about the men at the top.

Sharon: Biographies, curriculi vitae...

Kahan: Character assessments...

Sharon: Yes, I would say that these are the central personalities that there are, both in the political echelon and the military echelon.

Kahan: The document is exhibit 43.

Sharon: I would like perhaps just one sentence before I would ask the commission, so that I can say things fully, and I won't find myself restricted to noting one thing. Contrary to other establishments with which I am acquainted, in which there is a political echelon with whom you discuss and there is a military echelon, it seems to me that I will not err if I say that in the Lebanese Forces' system, when one dealt with a military issue, there were also always present people who were not among the army people there. Some of them appear in the list I gave, which I put in the commission's hands. Afterwards, perhaps, I will elaborate. There were always other people who took part; and though the military command is a very young command, relatively very young, the other people one may find there were always older people, like those appearing here -- or a man, one of those who was killed with Bashir, named George Nader, who was one of the leaders (I note his name because he is no longer among the living); there were always older people. And without a doubt, as I said before, this is not an establishment that I saw as an establishment operating out of inflamed impulses. Certainly not, certainly not. This is a thinking establishment. And to give the final answer to your question that you asked me about the main fear — that is to say, I would say two types of fear faced us in speaking about and analyzing the situation. One: that if those two thousand -- or if I may use the figures that I used during my talks with Philip Habib -- for they also agreed that terrorists had remained, they remained, along with 7,000 members of various militias belonging to 37 [as received] different organizations.

And I would like to pass this list to the commission.

Kahan: Here we are talking about Lebanese.

Sharon: Lebanese, they are Lebanese from leftist organizations, pro-communist organizations; I would say, from organizations which had more than 1,000 fighters, up to and including organizations which had a few fighters but who still had a lot of weapons — for it must be remembered that the terrorists, contrary to the agreement whereby they were supposed to hand over their weapons on 22 October to the Lebanese Army forces, did not hand over their weapons. Some of the weapons were given to these organizations, some were hidden, and stayed where it was. The fear was that this force would immediately recreate closed areas which it would be impossible to penetrate, and the beginnings of rebuilding, of recreating an infrastructure for the terrorist organizations, would be formed. This was the problem -- or one aspect of it.

The second aspect is that of attacks on the population from all directions and from all sides. There was not here -- I would say at this moment -- there was nothing that could point especially to bloodshed between a certain body and another certain body. What could certainly be seen is that if the situation would be recreated in which the city would once again be divided -- and I repeat: The political issue in this matter did not occupy me, although one cannot say that there is no weight attached to which government there is in Lebanon; this has great weight -- but what did occupy me, or us, in this issue is the fact of redivision of the city, and the start of a free-for-all. I would like to submit to the commission another document of those same 27 [as received] organizations of 7,000 armed men.

Kahan: Exhibit 44.

Baraq: This means that a feeling of vengeance resulting from Bashir's death was not a relevant consideration?

Sharon: With the commission members' permission, I would like to say a word on the subject of vengeance as I know it among the Arabs. Accepted revenge among the Arabs does not include children, women and old people. There are certainly more expert Arabists than I, yes; I say this in light of my information, my experience. Revenge exists, without a doubt...Amin himself, at the funeral, to the best of my recollection, at the funeral on the 15th of the month, used the word "revenge." The word revenge also appeared, I would say, in discussions among us...but I do not recall even in one remark...revenge attributed between one defined sector and another defined sector.... It wasn't attributed to massacres of entire populations, or of hundreds of people, as to our shock, we afterwards discovered.

Kahan: Perhaps to return to the 14th of the month, at 9:00 in the evening. Was there then adopted any decision how to act, what actions need to be taken in the event it became clear that Bashir had been murdered? At what level was this decision adopted?

Sharon: With the commission members' permission, I would ask whether it is possible -- if, of course, you decide among yourselves -- for me to continue my testimony in private.

Kahan: Well, there are things which are for the public to know. Let's assume, it's clear that at a certain point a decision was made to enter West Beirut. That is something you can confirm for us, that this decision was adopted.

Sharon: Yes, certainly yes.

Kahan: Could you tell us what was the decision regarding the role of the Phalangists in that same operation of entering Beirut? It seems to me that here, too, the matter is pretty well-known; but you know, perhaps, better than I what has been published and what has not been published, what can be confirmed by an authoritative source and what may still not be confirmed.

Sharon: As I said, a series of consultations was held in the evening hours, when all of us were following the reports -- and to me, a report that the man was alive would be...if one of our people would have seen him alive. The decision was made at midnight; the possibility was discussed of the need to go into West Beirut, in light of the situation, for the first time in a conversation between the prime minister and myself, a discussion at 7:00 or 8:00 in the evening. This was also discussed with the chief of staff.

Barak: When the prime minister was spoken with at 7:00 or 8:00 about the entry into Beirut, about the general need, was the role of the Phalangists also discussed?

Sharon: No, no.

Kahan: And was the Phalangists' role discussed with the chief of staff?

Sharon: No, it wasn't discussed with the chief of staff; but afterwards I will go into detail as to when the matter in fact came up, in what conversation and so forth.

The effective decision was adopted in a conversation or two conversations which were held: one between the prime minister and the chief of staff around midnight, and the other a few minutes later. I was on my way home then; I got a message to call the prime minister, and it was then, in fact, that the decision was adopted.

Kahan: I understand that here we are talking about a decision to go into Beirut, about the decision regarding the role of the Phalangists.

Sharon: On that I would prefer, with the commission members' permission, to give my testimony behind closed doors.

Kahan: Could you tell us what was the content of the decision? Not when it was taken -- what was the Phalangists' role to be during the entry into Beirut?

Sharon: A decision to include the Phalangists at all was an earlier decision. I would like to give the full details, on its various stages in the various Cabinet discussions, and I again would ask, with your permission, to do that behind closed doors.

Kahan: Well, we won't go into details right now. But finally, can you tell us now what was the final result? What was ultimately decided? We'll talk about considerations, ways, and details later. What were the Phalangists to do; what was their role to be during the entry into Beirut?

Sharon: It was decided that the Phalangists' role during the entry into Beirut would be to go into the terrorist neighborhoods, Shatila, Sabra, Al-Fakihani -- these were the terrorists' centers; and here, with the permission of the commission members, I would like to say a word about these centers.

We use the phrase "refugee camps" a great deal. People see in their imagination a camp of tents or a camp of huts or something similar, let's say, to the refugee camps we know from the Gaza Strip or from Judaea and Samaria. Here we are talking about neighborhoods with thousands of houses, from one story structures...

Kahan: You mean real houses.

Sharon: Real houses. I would like perhaps simply to give the commission members the photographs of -- when we talk about the Sabra camp, this is Sabra. Here, this is the Al-Fakihani quarter.

Kahan: Well, perhaps we will confine ourselves to Sabra and Shatila. In Sabra and Shatila were there high buildings or low buildings, or were most of the houses low and some of the houses high?

Sharon: There were both high and low, it's mixed.

Kahan: What was the area of each one, in square meters?

Sharon: I can say that in the Shatila camp, to the best of my knowledge, there are about 2,300 houses. Again, when I say camp, I must correct that to "neighborhood."

Kahan: You mean a neighborhood.

Sharon: A neighborhood. We are talking here about neighborhoods. We are not talking about camps, but about neighborhoods. I would like to point out...

Kahan: The photographs have been submitted. Three photographs, marked as exhibit 45.

Sharon: Afterwards, in the course of my testimony, I will submit additional photographs which perhaps give a view from a greater distance on these neighborhoods, picture taken then -- whether this was at a forward command post or somewhere else.

The neighborhoods of Shatila, Sabra, Al-Fakihani, and I would add another well-known neighborhood, except that at that time it was already not a subject for treatment -- Burj al-Barajinah -- these are neighborhoods that I would define as both aboveground and belowground neighborhoods. We have heard only from the media about the discovery of subterranean tunnels that link the neighborhoods. As we go on, I will present material on this subject to you: This is something we knew about ahead of time; there was a tunnel system there, a system of subterranean structures, sometimes several storeys.

As a general rule, it must be remembered that in West Beirut this business of underground construction is a well-accepted thing. Here, in these areas which had always served as the center for the terrorists' command headquarters, this business was more developed than anyplace else.

Kahan: Is there some estimate of the civilian population that lived at that time in those same camps, Sabra and Shatila?

Sharon: The civilian population at that time -- we know about a population of several score thousands who were in these neighborhoods before we came to the Beirut area, before we tightened the siege on Beirut. It must be recalled that these terrorist neighborhoods are the neighborhoods which constituted our main objective for attack, whether by artillery or by the air force, during those days when we besieged Beirut, those days when we combined the military effort with the political one. During those days, the neighborhood emptied out almost entirely of their civilian population, which left the places and went further north to the area which we would define as the "city" of Beirut, an area which we hardly touched, except for certain selected targets.

If I use a figure which I got from the Northern Command: In all of West Beirut there are between 23,000 and 24,000 houses, of which in the city of Beirut there were damaged or destroyed in the course of our actions -- I don't mean what happened during the war between the terrorists and the Christians between the years 1975-1982, but during our war -- about 40 houses were destroyed there. These numbers, this wasn't the situation in Al-Fakihani, Sabra, Shatila, and Burj al-Barajinah; these places constituted the terrorists' headquarters. The bulk of their forces were deployed there, their command headquarters were located there, their arsenals -- as I said, whose subterranean systems were built there; there, of course, the activity was different. The situation there was that there were a great many buildings damaged, there were a lot of duds left there, there were a lot of cluster bombs that didn't explode, there were minefields that had been planted. Perhaps to illustrate this subject a little...the building that I am showing is the forward command post of the division which was there on the spot.

Kahan: The photo of the forward command post [FCP] is designated exhibit 46.

Sharon: The place where we are standing, this is something of a reenactment, the place where we are standing is a street, a narrow street, on which when we were standing, on the side to the west of us, a short time before that an A.P.C. had gone over a mine. As I stood there on that spot, I remember when this photo was taken, we had just marked with white tape the edges of the mined area. On the east -- we are speaking of a very narrow street -- I found there a number of our soldiers who were lying down and resting, and one of them was reclining on a 500 kg bomb, an air force bomb which had not exploded; the structures themselves, if I happen to pick the forward command post building -- but it may be assumed that if it was this building, it is certain that the other buildings in the area were not different -- this is a structure in which slabs of concrete were hanging from the remnants of the ironwork of the building, a whole section destroyed. This in essence was the whole picture. In that area, to the best of the information available to us, a force estimated to be between 500 and 1000 terrorists was concentrated.

Kahan: The civilian population there had largely left.

Sharon: But it had come back.

Kahan: There was a return of the civilian population?

Sharon: Yes. It may be assumed that there was a return of the civilian population. It seems reasonable that after the evacuation of the terrorists, the civilian population began to return to the place. Certainly not all of them could have returned, since, after all, these camps were camps which had undergone great damage. These neighborhoods were neighborhoods in which there was much destruction. In these places, as I have said, (A) there were places known to us as places where there were terrorists; we had all the reports. We had reports that the terrorists had been ordered to put on civilian garb, as well as additional orders which I will submit later on to the members of the commission who have been there. My own impression on the 15th of the month in the morning, when I arrived at the F.C.P. which was located in the building shown in the photo which I have submitted to you, was that indeed at the beginning, apparently between the hours of 5.00 a.m., when our forces began to enter -- I am speaking of the I.D.F.--

Kahan: You are referring to the 15th of the month?

Sharon: To the 15th of the month. That at the beginning perhaps the shock was such that there was little resistance or almost no resistance; as the hours passed, resistance increased. I, myself, while I was at the F.C.P. saw the fire; there was already tank fire....

Baraq: From Shatila?

Sharon: From this area of Shatila, Shatila-Sabra, there was automatic fire. I don't know if the tank fire was from Shatila, I cannot say that; I am now speaking of fire from our tanks which had already begun. Fierce resistance, and there were already signs of stubborn fighting which was on the increase. The fighting got fiercer, and I will yet describe later the morning of the 16th. The fact is, that we ourselves, on the border of these neighborhoods, we encountered heavy resistance in achieving our objectives; it will be clear that there was a strong terrorist force there, and there was definitely, in our decision to send Lebanese Forces in to act there, without any doubt the consideration -- in addition to other considerations -- but the consideration of saving the lives of our soldiers was the prime consideration. Furthermore, there was a Cabinet resolution, adopted on 15 June 1982, and it spoke in a clear fashion -- in my opinion it couldn't be more so -- of integrating the Lebanese Forces in the campaign in Lebanon, something that came up time and again in Cabinet meetings since then; something which came up in the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee in the sharp criticism which was levelled at the non-integration of the Lebanese Forces; also in the media: articles, and so forth. But it came up time and again in Cabinet meetings, and later on I will go into detail about the resolutions.

Kahan: Let us return to the decision that was taken... the decision was that the Phalangists were to enter the quarters or the camps Sabra, Shatila, and Al-Fakahani. Was there also a decision that the I.D.F. would not go in there?

Sharon: Yes, definitely. It was resolved that the I.D.F. would not go in there, for two reasons: One, it was the area in which we had seen the place of the fiercest resistance, and we definitely wished to avoid bringing in our forces. We made great efforts to bring in Lebanese Army forces -- I know this, of course, from various debriefings, from material I have read; others will certainly testify about this. I can tell here about my experiences in contacts with Ambassador Draper on the 16th of the month and on the 17th of the month. I strongly urged him to bring in the Lebanese Army forces who were on the borders of these neighborhoods; and there was definitely the intention, as I have said, to bring the Phalangists in to fight there.

I must say, if we had had any sort of apprehension, we had doubts chiefly as to whether the Lebanese Forces actually had the operational capability to go in and to fight and to clean up these areas.

On this issue we definitely had apprehension; and therefore, I -- despite the fact that the Lebanese Forces had gone into action on the 16th of the month, in the evening -- I was still, that evening, pressing the Americans to make it possible, I would say to a great degree, because I think that at that time there was created, there was a sort of situation of, there was direct contact between us and the Lebanese Army, but I do not think that there was great American enthusiasm especially for the Lebanese Army's entry at this stage. I also repeated my demand for this on the 17th of the month, at noon, at the deliberation which took place then in the office of the foreign minister; I repeated it once more; that is, the apprehension we had at that time lest these forces are not enough; but, as I said, there was a decision that the I.D.F. would not go in, and that was, as I said before, for two reasons: one, because of the issue of casualties; and two, we had not once, as far as I know, sent I.D.F. forces together with the Lebanese Forces.

Not that we had not, I would say, even from time to time, put our lives into their hands; and will yet tell the members of the commission about this. But in the case of a righting unit whose language is Arabic and whose methods of combat are not exactly identical with the combat methods of our soldiers, it was a rule -- and I do not recall any exceptions -- not to send our soldiers or our officers with them; we did not do this in other places, either.

Kahan: Now, at that stage, when it was decided that the Phalangists were going to enter the camps, or the neighborhoods, and the I.D.F. was not going in -- was any apprehension brought up regarding acts of revenge or acts of slaughter against the civilian population by the Phalangists?

Sharon: No, no. But I would like to say here -- we have a great deal of experience in fighting in built-up areas. Anyone who thinks, or thought -- in my opinion, no one thought -- that in fighting in a built-up area such as this, as it is there, and in any built-up area, no civilians would be killed, then he is mistaken. I don't think anyone thought so. We know that civilians get killed.

Kahan: Very well, we are not talking about civilians deaths in the course of fighting, but about deliberate killing.

Sharon: Yes, I would add this then, I would add this: I do not think that any person, that anyone thought that the Lebanese Forces would act as we do; I did not think that the Lebanese Forces would act as we do. The I.D.F. has its own ethical code of battle. Between this and acts of massacre and atrocities, the distance is very great. As for massacres and atrocities of this sort which were later revealed to us -- we never imagined, and none of those taking part in the deliberations brought it up. No one spoke. And no one warned. And I start with myself: Yes, I never imagined that this is what would happen; I never imagined. Not one of those present on the day of the 15th of the month, while we were talking in the division's forward command post, at the time that the chief of staff gave us his summation on the issue of the Lebanese Forces -- and I approved it, because this was an accepted thing, it was clear, it was something we had been aiming at all along. During the talk I had with the commander of the Lebanese Forces that morning, in the presence of all those concerned -- I will go into detail later as to who was present at the deliberations I had on the 16th of the month, in my office in Tel Aviv -- and on the 15th of the month the deliberations took place in Beirut; on the 16th I held talks in the morning in my office, again this matter did not come up. On the 16th in the evening...

Baraq: One moment, let us still return to the 15th. I understand that on the 15th in the morning you set out for Beirut. Perhaps before: Who sums up concerning the evening of the 14th at midnight, when the decision to enter Beirut was taken, from the point of view of the prime minister -- did he know that the forces, the Phalangists, would enter the camps, or was all he knew a decision in principle to enter certain areas in Beirut?

Sharon: The prime minister knew of a decision in principle to enter certain areas in Beirut.

The question of a decision to activate the Lebanese Forces is one that had been taken previously. I also want to place it in proper perspective. Thousands of soldiers participated in the action in West Beirut. To the best of my knowledge, the Lebanese Forces that acted numbered between 100-200 men. It was part of an effort in which thousands of soldiers took part.

Baraq: I repeat the question; Did the prime minister know that the Phalangists would enter Sabra, Shatila, part of the plan?

Kahan: On Thursday.

Efrat: On Wednesday evening.

Baraq: On 14 September, at night.

Efrat: On Tuesday.

Sharon: No, no; to best of my knowledge, no.

Baraq: On the 15th of the month, in the morning, you set out for Beirut, yes? Can you tell us at what time you met, without naming the people exactly, with whom did you meet, first of all with our people?

Sharon: Well, my first meeting was at the forward command post, with our commanders.

Baraq: What time was that?

Sharon: At about 8 a.m.

Baraq: Was the chief of staff there then?

Sharon: Yes. I met with the Lebanese Forces' command at their headquarters, and later on I will give details of that conversation. After this.

Baraq: Was the chief of staff also at that same meeting, if you recall?

Sharon: No. But the chief of military intelligence, a senior "Mosad" representative, and the chief of security services were at that meeting.

Baraq: And Phalangists.

Sharon: Yes.

Baraq: Could you tell us, in that meeting with the Phalangists, was something said about the possibility of massacre, or of killing women and children, in the form of a warning that they do not do this thing, or in some other form?

Sharon: The answer is -- no. We did not go into any detailed discussion. What exactly was said there I will read to you afterwards. From that place I went to a meeting at, a condolence call in Bikfayya, to Pierre al-Jumayyil.

Baraq: What time was that?

Sharon: I would guess I was there around, between 11 and 12.

Baraq: Which means that this meeting was before, between 8 and 11. And afterwards, after the sympathy call?

Sharon: After this visit, I met again with the chief of staff, still in Beirut; and after that I came back. In this meeting with Pierre al-Jumayyil -- I also met with Amin al-Jumayyil then -- I got the impression at that time from Pierre al-Jumayyil...

Baraq: From Amin?

Sharon: No, from Pierre. Amin, I will, afterwards, with your permission.... My impression from Pierre al-Jumayyil was that the man again held the reins of leadership. I noted this then: that he seemed to me then to be stronger, despite the disaster that had occurred, despite the fact that it was but a short time before the funeral. He seemed to me then much stronger than at other times that I had seen him; and with my impression that the man was holding the reins of power -- indeed the chosen candidate, the elected president was no longer, but a determination did in fact exist (and I will go into detail afterwards in the discussion) to continue to hold on to power as the matter had appeared before.

Kahan: Afterwards you returned to Israel?

Sharon: Afterwards I returned to Israel, yes.

Kahan: On that same day, were there any activities whatsoever on your part which are deserving of note on this subject? We are on the 15th, in the afternoon hours, in the evening hours.

Sharon: I would say, in sum I am serving as defense minister; to a great extent I am a full partner, sometimes even bear the responsibility for large portions of the political negotiations...

Baraq: The decision to send the Phalangists into the camps -- do you see it as a military or a political decision?

Sharon: The political decision had already been reached. This was a military decision, or the implementation of a political decision that had been reached earlier and had been gone over again and again over the course of a long period of time.

Kahan: If so, we come to the 16th of the month. On the 16th of the month, you had some meeting in your office, in which there was a report on what had occurred in the meanwhile. When was this, if you could tell us?

Sharon: I think the meeting was at 10 a.m.

Kahan: I assume that we have the same document here. Could you show it? It reveals what was talked about at that meeting. We have it. It starts with remarks by the chief of staff, doesn't it?

Sharon: Yes.

Kahan; Yes, it's the same document. What happened after that meeting? Regarding the connection to what happened afterwards.

Sharon: What happened on that same day...

Kahan: On that same day, there was a meeting with Draper. Up until that meeting with Draper, there was nothing worthy of note?

Sharon: Normal things.

Kahan: Yes, worthy of note in our affairs; beyond this, nothing special.

Sharon: He followed what was happening. It must be realized that the 17th of the month was a day, in the morning, a day of hard fighting in the area of the terrorist camps. I would prefer to go into detail on that afterwards, on my various conversations with the deputy chief of staff, with General Drori, that same morning. I noted the talk with Ambassador Draper.

Kahan: That was at 5:00? It began at 5:00?

Sharon: It began at 5:00. I requested that the things be brought to the commission; I...

Kahan: One moment, the Phalangists went into action at approximately the same time.

Sharon: They went in as the Cabinet met.

Kahan: That evening of the same day.

Sharon: The Cabinet was to convene at 7:30 p.m., and I flew to Jerusalem for the Cabinet meeting. That's what happened that day.

Kahan: Very well, we have a report on what happened at the Cabinet meeting. That's what happened that day.

Sharon: Yes.

Kahan: What more did you hear about the events in Beirut?

Baraq: Excuse me, the Cabinet meeting was something publicized. Minister Levi spoke of a possible massacre; didn't that light up a warning light?

Sharon: I would simply like to read out what Minister Levi said, and I would perhaps like to give before this my impression of the matter. Minister Levi did not object to the action; no one objected to the action; and I would like to quote the prime minister here, from the meeting of the 19th of the month, and then give my impression ...

Kahan: These things that were said in the Cabinet meeting, can they be made public, or have they already been made public?

Sharon: I confess that I shall not succeed in giving the honorable members of the commission a clear picture. There are here, in my opinion, things that can't be made public; and I would suggest that I go over them in closed session. But I would definitely like to read this to the commission.

The prime minister says ...

--: If I may ask that before these things are exhibited for perusal ...

Kahan: You have the authority to present yourself in matters of preserving national security, so that these things will not be revealed in public. Just tell us your name so that it can be noted down in the transcript.

--: My name is Giyora Ma'or.

Kahan: And your position?

Ma'or: From the attorney general's office.

Sharon: I will put this off until the closed session. I just want to say simply what my impression of the remarks was. I will deal only with my impression. My impression from Deputy Prime Minister David Levi's remarks was not that he objected to the action; no one objected to the action during the debate. His reservation was as to the claim that stipulated that the entry of IDF forces into West Beirut was meant -- perhaps I will give the exact citation -- to maintain order, since and in his opinion things could happen that are not compatible with the issue of law and order, he saw in this that we would be accused in the wake of this and our claim would not stand up -- so that his argument was, to the best of my impression -- and I also know the Cabinet, as a member of the Cabinet for more than 5 years -- when a minister wishes to express an objection he can express an objection. He can bring his proposal to an immediate vote.

Kahan: We don't mean the issue of objection or of voting against; the question is whether his remarks shouldn't have led to some special circumspection regarding what was going to happen, or to an admonition to the forces operating in the field to keep their eyes open, let's say, to what would happen.

Sharon: I would say his remarks, in my opinion, did not -- for his remarks had to do with the claim, and the credibility of our claim in the situation that we were likely to get into. As for the taking of precautionary measures, precautionary measures were taken, I would say in this case beyond what I am familiar with in previous actions when troops from the Lebanese Forces were sent in.

Baraq: Why?

Sharon: The reason why such measures were taken is due to the fact that we had the intention of sending in both the Lebanese Army, the Lebanese Forces, and IDF forces, so long as confusion and shock reigned in Beirut; and so I, on the 15th of the month, concluded and issued an order which was passed on to the chief of staff, to the deputy chief of staff, to the chief of army intelligence -- I would not like to read it here, I --

Kahan: You mean the letter by Duda'i? We have it.

Sharon: Yes.

Kahan: When did you first hear about something that happened, something unusual that had happened in Beirut, in the Sabra and Shatila camps?

Sharon: On the eve of the Jewish New Year.

Kahan: You mean on the 17th of the month?

Sharon: On the 17th of the month, on the eve of the Jewish New Year, I would say between 8:30 and 9:00, close to 9:00, I estimate close to 9:00.

Baraq: In the morning or the evening?

Sharon: In the evening. The chief of staff called me. It was close to 9:00.

Kahan: And you were where?

Sharon: I was at my home. That was at 9:00 p.m. or close to 9:00 p.m. The chief of staff called me from his home and told me that he had returned from Beirut, just returned from Beirut, and he told me that in the course of the Phalangists' action in the camps, the Christians caused more civilian casualties than had been anticipated.

Kahan: Were these words taken down then? Did you take them down?

Sharon: No, they weren't taken down then. I am recalling them from my memory. I remember that the chief of staff used the expression they 'went too far,' the Lebanese Forces, the forces 'went too far.' And he went on and said: And therefore already in the afternoon the action had been terminated by the G.O.C. Northern Command. He went on and said that he had flown to Beirut and had met there with the G.O.C. Northern Command (Maj Gen Amir Drori), with army officers, commanders of the Lebanese Forces -- and he emphasized in his remarks three things: (1) We have stopped all action; (2) We have prevented the entry of forces from the terrorists' quarters; the Phalangists were organizing to leave, were departing, would complete their exit 5:00 a.m. I, from the chief of staff's words then it was totally clear to me that this thing was also mentioned; that civilians were killed.

Kahan: You had heard nothing about the chief of staff's flight to Beirut, about the reason for his flight to Beirut, that Friday?

Sharon: The chief of staff also told me. I had a meeting with the chief of staff at 11:30. We had a talk at Sede Dov (airfield) in Tel Aviv...

Kahan: On that Friday, the 17th of the month?

Sharon: Yes, on that Friday. I am simply going back a few hours earlier. We had a talk at Sede Dov; the discussion revolved around a different issue altogether. It revolved around the subject of the detention camp at Ansar. Participating in this discussion was the chief of the (IDF) Manpower Division, the chief of the Intelligence Branch was there, other people relevant to the matter. Then the chief of staff told me -- I invited the chief of staff to join the talks with Draper in Jerusalem -- the chief of staff told me that he was about to leave for Beirut.

Baraq: Did he tell you the reason?

Sharon: No, no, he did not tell me the reason. Neither do I know -- I say, after seeing everything that has been published -- I don't know today if that was before his conversation with Amir Drori or after his conversation with Amir; I don't know.

Kahan: In any case, he didn't tell you.

Sharon: No, this topic wasn't brought up at all. When he returned, that was his report. From the chief of staff's report it was absolutely clear to me that civilians had been killed, and I said before...

Kahan: His report at 8:00 p.m.

Sharon: Yes, at quarter-to-nine, or 9:00. I have already said before that no one thought that civilians would not be killed in such an action; but it was clear that it was over-done here, that deeds that shouldn't have been done were perpetrated here. Three things, I would say, were made clear to me, I would say, in a manner beyond all doubt; and these are the things that were emphasized: (1) The action had been terminated...

Kahan: O.K., we've heard those points, the points the chief of staff made. And then, what did you do after you had heard this report? Did you do something, or did you think that there was no need to do anything since in any case the things had already been done as per the chief of staff's orders?

Sharon: The things were being done according to the chief of staff's instructions. It was absolutely evident to me that all the steps had been taken, especially since at ten-to-ten, at 21.50 hours, the duty officer in the situation room called me...

Kahan: From the situation room where?

Sharon: From the situation room in my bureau. And he told me that forces of Haddad, or soldiers from Haddad's forces, or people from Haddad's forces — a thing that, I say today to the best of my knowledge, that they are not from Haddad sources, but I am speaking now about a report that I received about an hour after the chief of staff's report -- a report which said that soldiers from one of our paratroop brigades had encountered Haddad men who had perpetrated killings or had harmed the population; they (the paratroopers) opened fire on them, killed one of them and captured two of them.

Baraq: Were there more than three?

Sharon: That's the report we got, that's the report. This report only confirmed for me what the chief of staff had said. You must understand, we are talking here about allies, we are talking here about people with whom we had worked together for a long period; and if the situation reaches such a pass that IDF soldiers open fire, kill a soldier from the Christian forces, kill a soldier, capture the others — it was completely clear to me that, in this matter, all the measures had been taken just as the chief of staff had told me.

Kahan: Did it become clear afterwards exactly where this incident with the three Haddad men took place?

Sharon: As far as I know today, what I know, this incident was somewhere in the area of Burj al-Barajinah...either on the boundary between Burj al-Barajinah and Shatila, or next to Burj al-Barajinah; that is according to what I know. I can look into this more carefully; but that night, what was reported -- this is according to the language of the log that is kept, and we have passed that on to you -- that was the report I received. It was a report that came out about an hour after the chief of staff's report; and these appeared to me, I must say at that moment, drastic measures, very drastic, that were taken so as to make certain that indeed those same points that I noted earlier were indeed being implemented.

Kahan: What happened then? So, didn't you also call, didn't you inform the prime minister of what the chief of staff had told you, that same evening?

Sharon: No.

Kahan: Besides these two reports, didn't you take any other actions that evening?

Sharon: There was, it seems to me, another, earlier report; it seems to me there was a report before the chief of staff called me, that the Americans maybe had reported some movement or other by Kata'ib men, Phalangists, in the area of the camps; but there wasn't anything new in this, because (A) I knew they were there; I knew that they, we knew that they were supposed to be operating there. I don't recall what time this was, if it was before or after; but these are, I would say, the only three reports that appear: one a routine report on movement by Kata'ib men in the area, something we knew about; the report by the chief of staff; and the report that appeared to me as a report confirming and strengthening the chief of staff's report that I'd heard at 9:50 [as received].

Kahan: That same night, television correspondent Ron Ben-Yishay also called you, didn't he?

Sharon: Yes.

Kahan: About what time was that; after these calls?

Sharon: Yes, after these calls; at 11:30 p.m., Ron Ben-Yishay called me and told me; we had a short talk that lasted for a few minutes. He told me he had heard from officers who had heard from soldiers that they had seen Phalangist soldiers perpetrating or murdering, killing, civilians in Shatila. I asked him for more details. What I learned from these words was that he had heard it once at four in the afternoon and, if I'm not mistaken, at eight in the evening or something like that. I definitely asked him -- and I also received a clear answer -- I asked him: Did the men who said this see it with their own eyes? He said, no; the men didn't see it with their own eyes, they heard it.

This to me only reinforced what I had known previously; there was nothing new in this -- for, after all, for this reason the action had been terminated, for this reason additional forces had been prevented from entering, for this reason Haddad men had been fired upon, for this reason orders had been given to the terrorists (sic) to leave the camp -- and I didn't see anything additional in this, especially since -- with all due respect, and I certainly relate to him very seriously -- in my eyes, the chief of staff is the reporting agency, is the reporting authority that relays (information) and takes measures.

Baraq: In the evening, at 8:00, we know that they've 'gone too far,' and at 11 we know that they may even have gone a little more than too far; and nonetheless, the agreement is that they remain there until the morrow. Was there no room, at least at this stage -- at 8:00 p.m. the chief of staff, at 11:00 p.m. Ron Ben-Yishay -- to take action so that they wouldn't be able to stay there that night, lest they do during the night what they had done before?

Sharon: With your permission, I would like if I can -- I'm sure that at least one of the commission members, General Efrat (I'm sure that you, too, but General Efrat), who also knows this arena, who was the chief of staff's adviser during the war -- I would like to go into a little detail, explain this matter a bit. Honorable members of the commission, we are talking about a densely built-up area in which fighting is going on. Look, if we had thought for a minute that there were only civilians in those camps, there would have been no reason to send in the Phalangists. It was clear that fighting was going on there. Looking back, we also know about casualities, that the Phalange suffered casualties and so on. And I would like to say -- looking back, we know from the reports by this battalion commander, by another battalion commander from a paratroop brigade, about fire and shooting -- and about all kinds of things that appear in the material which, if I'm not mistaken, we sent from my office to the commission. The area contains what is called an upper city, large parts of which were destroyed, and a subterranean city. I use the word, "city," yes, subterranean; of course it's not a city in the full sense of the term, but a subterranean city of tunnels and storerooms and command posts, a place full of pits, a place full of minefields. I described the place to the commission members. I stood in it, yes, by the forward command post. It's a place where tough fighting took place for weeks, more than weeks, long weeks. The Phalangists are an organized army; I must say, when on the 15th of the month I passed through and saw the mobilized Phalange forces -- when I saw them in the neat and pressed uniforms, in their shining vehicles, their cleaned and well-ordered weapons -- I said to myself, I have seen a serious thing here. But there are things they don't have. For instance, they don't have communications, while we have, let's say, every one of our units down to nearly the lowest level.

So I know what it takes us, I know what it would take us, our forces, if, let's say, they were to receive an order in the evening to evacuate a certain place; is a period until 5:00 a.m. a reasonable period for the forces to evacuate in? Completely reasonable. That is, I think that when you are talking about having to collect equipment, having to gather the wounded; you still have to be careful, you are, after all, in a combat area, yes. You have an area in which there is fighting; what we saw all the time before our eyes: fighting. But even the descriptions I am reading, and the investigative reports I read afterwards -- they certainly talk about fighting. I would like to tell the commission members that although we entered West Beirut on the 15th of the month, and on the 16th of the month I reported in the morning to the prime minister around 10:30, and it seems to me that I left the discussion of the situation and I reported -- or that was after that -- I told the members of the commission what I reported to the prime minister: I reported that all was quiet. But I want you to know that we -- for example, the Corniche al-Mazra'ah (this is one of the main streets linking the city from east to west in the Al-Fakihani-Al-Hamra' area) -- despite the fact that we went through there, the fighting there continued. And I think that the fighting continued there throughout the 17th of the month, if I'm not mistaken; I need to refresh my memory a bit with the journal, but I know absolutely that it continued in this section. So, from my perspective as a commander, to come and say, "you sent a unit a command to leave at night, and it completes its exit at 5:00 in the morning," this seems reasonable to me -- especially given there was a clear feeling that the action had been stopped. It was completely clear to me that the action had been stopped.

Kahan: What happened afterwards? Was there nothing else that same night that is worthy of mention that you can tell us about?

Sharon: There was nothing special on that night, same night that I can tell you.

Kahan: What happened on Saturday?

Sharon: On Saturday, I had a number of conversations with the chief of staff. I had a conversation with the chief of staff at 8:30 in the morning, or at about 8:30 in the morning, I would say, between 8:00 and 9:00.

Kahan: There is no telephone conversation?

Sharon: A telephone conversation with the chief of staff.

Kahan: What was said?

Sharon: In that conversation a number of topics were talked about. There was a problem about some French destroyer which was due to enter, we spoke about...

Kahan: But in connection with our topic.

Sharon: Yes, yes, we exchanged words regarding the issue of Haddad's men, which were, again, on the subject of getting the Phalangists out -- actually, more of a report -- more, I would say, the verification of what had been reported that evening. I estimate that those were more or less the topics. I had another conversation with the chief of staff...

Kahan: In that conversation, did you ask, did he report whether something was not in order, additional information?

Sharon: No, no.

Sharon: No, no. I, what I knew was what we knew the evening before, that there had definitely been irregular actions; this we knew.

There was another conversation, apparently, I say, at the moment I am simply trying to reconstruct the conversations. There was apparently another conversation, maybe between 9:00 and 10:00, in which the chief of staff told me -- I think that there was such a conversation -- in which the chief of staff told me about the prime minister having called his attention to, having telephoned him; he didn't -- the prime minister didn't -- call me on this matter, but I heard about it from the chief of staff, that the prime minister had called him regarding some event in a hospital named Gaza hospital, or something like that. Another conversation, I would say, telephone, there was another conversation, there was a call from the Foreign Ministry Director General Dave Kimche, to me at around, I would guess, between 11:30 and 12:00, maybe around 11:30, in which he gave me information which they had received from Draper...the information was made up of two parts, which, I would say, were not identical in the weight of their importance. One part dealt with the reports which they had on the slaughter of the Palestinians; the second part dealt with the fact that they had reports alleging that IDF soldiers had entered banks on Banks Street.

In the wake of his conversation I once again immediately contacted the chief of staff, spoke with him about these points, about those same reports, and at 12:45 I received the same report from our situation room that again tells of the same two-part report made up of two sections that had been received from Draper. I said then to the duty officer...I have already talked with the chief of staff on this matter; and I contacted -- I estimate at approximately 1:00 -- the director-general of the Foreign Ministry.

I told him the following: (1) With regard to the action, the Phalangists' action in the terrorists' camps, I emphasized three elements -- I even remember the word I used -- one, I said, we have terminated (it); two, I said, we have prevented the entry of additional forces; the third thing, I said, we have expelled the forces; we have expelled the forces which are in the camps. As far as the Banks Street...

Kahan: Let's leave the Banks Street; that's not our subject. Afterward -- Let's go back to our subject -- what did you yourself do? Were there any additional actions in this area?

Sharon: Yes, I took another action at approximately -- I think it was after the conversation with, I think it was after the conversation with the director general of the Foreign Ministry, because I called the prime minister, that was in the morning, I was told that the prime minister was in the synagogue. In the afternoon, I would say after these conversations, I would estimate about 3 conversations with the chief of staff, 2 conversations with the director general of the Foreign Ministry, all of the activities that occurred -- this was a morning in which little by little the picture continued to develop -- at, I would guess at 3:00, the matter started to break in the media (maybe there already was something at 2:00, I don't know). Starting at 3:00 there already began journalists' reports on what had happened. I ordered -- at approximately 6:00 on Saturday -- I ordered that a detailed report be made to me as to when the Phalangists entered, what they did, when they were removed, the entries themselves that were made in the log, exactly what were the points that I demanded...

Kahan: You also went to the place?

Sharon: No.

Kahan: Before this occurrence, you were there at that forward command post?

Sharon: Yes.

Kahan: At that time, I do not know whether you paid any attention to it, did you notice what you could see from the forward command post when looking in the direction of Shatila and Sabra?

Sharon: I certainly did look at what could be seen, and I would like to give to the members of the commission two photographs that were taken of Shatila from the roof of the forward command post.

Kahan: When was this taken, afterwards?

Sharon: They were taken on Friday, the 17th of September, at 11:00. That is to say, at the height of the events that were happening.

Kahan: Who took these pictures?

Sharon: The photographs were taken by Brigadier General Tira.

Baraq: Was there any special reason this was photographed?

Sharon: No. I simply came across it. I came across it somewhere, I don't know eactly how, or someone told me that he had taken pictures; and I turned to him a few days ago because I wanted to present these photographs to the commission. These are the photographs.

Kahan: The photographs are exhibits 47 and 48.

Sharon: There is a description on the back of exactly what the photographs are.

Kahan: According to what you saw with your own eyes when you visited there, when did you visit the forward command post?

Sharon: I visited there on Wednesday, the 15th of the month.

Kahan: Were you at that time on the roof?

Sharon: I was on the roof.

Kahan: And you looked in the direction of...

Sharon: I looked in all directions.

Kahan: Did you look in the direction of Shatila and Sabra?

Sharon: I looked in all directions.

Kahan: Also toward Shatila?

Sharon: Also toward Shatila, also toward Sabra, also toward the stadium area, also toward the area of the city. I looked in all directions.

Kahan: Can you tell us what one can see from that place when one looks?

Sharon: To my knowledge...

Kahan: Also when one looks through binoculars.

Sharon: I myself looked through binoculars, in all directions. I would say, and in my opinion, you can't see anything from there. That is, you can see a cluster of houses.

Kahan: What is happening between the houses, is it possible to see (that)?

Sharon: No, no. What it is possible to see, I would say this, it was possible to see in that area there was a building of the Kuwait Embassy, also Kuwait Square (perhaps we called it Kuwait Square because it was next to the embassy), to the north of it there was a reddish hill of slightly reddish earth, slightly more so than regular earth, it was possible to see this hill from the forward command post.

Baraq: To the west?

Sharon: To the east.

Baraq: East or west?

Sharon: The forward command post was to the west of the Shatila neighborhood,

Baraq: Yes, but from Kuwait, from the Kuwait Embassy?

Sharon: The Kuwait Embassy, from the place on which we stood, these are all very short distances, some tens of meters.

Kahan: Perhaps you could explain it to us on the map?

Sharon: The forward command post is located here in one of the structures. I think this structure, this is the forward command post. This is the building of the Kuwait Embassy, this is the square, this is what is called the (Moosh) artery. There were here two important arteries -- one of them was a boulevard in the east that connected the hippodrome, passed between Al-Hamra' and Al-Fakihani; and this is the second route. That is what it was possible to see from there. It was possible to see a cluster of houses. It was possible to see the small hill that was in front of that.

Kahan: Was it possible to see what was happening in the streets of the neighborhood?

Sharon: A built-up area, honored members of the commission, I want once again to make this point clear. We ourselves use the term camp, and the day came when I was asked the question: Were the gates of the camp open. From the term 'camp,' people get a certain idea. At issue here is not a camp; at issue here are neighborhoods with thousands of houses in them, and I would say their size, extent and form are in the photos I have given you.

Kahan: Afterwards, debriefings on this matter were held in the afternoon. Did it become clear what the role of Major Haddad's men was, or whether they had any part in that incident? We have heard of a group of three, or whom one was killed and two were caught. Besides this, what was the connection with Haddad's men -- or perhaps you can tell me in general what were the ties, relations between the Phalangists and Haddad's men.

Sharon: First, as to the matter of Haddad. To the best of our knowledge, I say our knowledge, Haddad's men were not involved in the matter. According to the material.

Kahan: In all the material you went over, was there any testimony to the effect that other than those three of whom we spoke, any more groups of Haddad's men were seen?

Sharon: No, that is to say, that from time to time one of Haddad's men or another was found in the streets of Beirut, I assume that such things happened.

Kahan: We are interested in Sabra and Shatila.

Sharon: No. I also spoke on this subject with Haddad himself. But to the same degree, I can say I also spoke to the Phalangist commanders and looked them in the eye, but they denied utterly any participation in the matter, and I would say they did not bat an eyelash; but on this aspect I will say a few words later, on this matter, on this aspect. To the best of my knowledge Haddad's men did not participate.

Kahan: What were the relations?

Sharon: We do not know, but -- I say again, we have some material or other that I do not know if I can depend on it with any certainty -- that the Phalangists perhaps used, tried to appear to be Haddad's men, or used the names of Haddad's men, or -- this I say, I admit, in the media, I think in a report by Ehud Ya'are, if I am not mistaken -- I am simply telling that I saw on the alleged use of documents of Haddad's men, or (I.D.) cards, or papers, or laissez-passer certificates which were left behind. We did not find for this, we certainly did not find any basis whatsoever for thinking that Haddad's men took part in this action.

Kahan: The relations between the Phalangists and Haddad's men were cooperative, or the opposite?

Sharon: Relations between the Phalangists and Haddad's men is a complex, complicated issue, and there were many talks on this subject; and on that I will report behind closed doors because I think that it is important to describe the matter -- just as I think that it is important to give a wider and deeper description of the whole issue of the Phalangists, which I would like, as I have requested, to give it later, behind closed doors.

I would define the relations as relations -- I wouldn't say exchanges of fire or battles between Haddad's men and the Phalangists -- I would define this as tense relations, expecially against the personal background of Haddad himself. It must be recalled that Haddad is a person who was appointed by Franjiyah; he is not a Phalangist, he is a Sham'unist, and out of the sensitive, intricate network of relations -- this is an issue that was discussed more than once....

Efrat: Where were the closest of Haddad's units?

Sharon: In Sidon, to the best of my knowledge.

Efrat: If Haddad's units, not individual persons, had arrived in this area, it can be assumed that we would know about it.

Sharon: It would be difficult for me to say that until now -- more than forty days since that event -- it is very difficult for me to assume -- and therefore our evaluation -- and I say our evaluation -- this, our evaluation is that they did not participate. But, in general, at this point a simple thing must be known. I have the honor to sit before a commission -- it could be that if we assume that it would be a court -- I don't know whether it is possible to prove who murdered. We know who entered the camp, we know who left the camp. No one among us, no one among us, I do not think that we even know the exact number of dead that were there. I am aware of our figures, which talk of between 700-800; these are the figures we have.

Kahan: Were there any reports from the Red Cross as to how many people were murdered there?

Kahan: Was an attempt at least made to get any reports from them, from the Red Cross?

Sharon: Yes.

Kahan: What figures do they talk about?

Sharon: I am depending on the figures of the intelligence branch.

Kahan: The intelligence branch speaks of 700-800?

Sharon: That's it. Those are the figures. To tell the truth, we don't know. If I had to, today -- let us assume I was standing here and you were asking me today who murdered them, I have to stand before you after I had been warned -- I would say to you: I do not know, I do not know.

Baraq: As far as individuals are concerned?

Sharon: I do not know. I know who entered the camp, I know who left the camp; I do not know. That is to say, we were not in the camp; we do not know. If you were to ask me whether, let's say, perhaps people also entered from another direction, from somewhere else? After all, there were sides to the camp which we were not in control of at all. That was the east side and the south side; from the direction of Burj al-Barajinah and from the direction of the whole east side: the Ar-Rayhan area -- in those places. We were not positioned there. I say, if I had to come today, after I had been warned, to say: Tell me, did they come in from other places, from another side, I would say: I do not know. I do not know. We can only talk about what we know, that which we saw here on our side.

Efrat: Have we any sort of information from the reports we have received from then until now, did the event, the main part of this slaughter, take place in those days of Friday through Saturday in the morning, or after?

Sharon: According, I say according, if I try to reconstruct, or I saw, what they said, let's say, what they said -- I say again -- what the Palestinians said when they asked them in the camps and so on -- if I try to reconstruct things which I already read after that -- that is, I found in the debriefings -- well, it is reasonable that I read the reports of the debriefings which took place -- when the soldiers are talking, that appears in the reports. Whether it is this officer or that soldier -- are talking, they are talking about Friday morning. What I had heard that the Palestinians are saying -- I say again, what I say in the media -- they are talking about the night between Thursday and Friday. I do not know when it was exactly. These are things on which we have testimony. We have testimony of what one officer or another reports -- I just would not like to mention names here...

Kahan: I assume we will be hearing them.

Sharon: What they reported.

Baraq: There are the names of foreigners who were in the camps -- nurses, doctors? Americans, others? There are lists.

Sharon: I do not know whether the names were taken. I will definitely be happy to check and to report back to the commission. I know of a group on Saturday morning -- I think about 8:30 am -- a group of doctors and nurses -- again, I know this from the later reports -- which was released by one of our division commanders -- and I know that some of them expressed the wish to return to the hospital where they had been, as far as I remember from the report itself. Whether their names were taken or not, I do not know.

Kahan: Can they be reached in order to testify in front of the commission?

Sharon: I ...

Kahan: We are naturally interested in hearing all relevant testimony.

Sharon: The correspondents have some, simply because their words were published, appeared on television, and so on -- they are certainly known to the members of the commission. As for the matter of the doctors, if the names were noted on the spot -- then it is certainly simple. But it seems to me since we are talking of such an electrifying occurrence, it will not be difficult to find these doctors, and I will certainly be happy to bring them to the commission, and it may be that it would take a few days, but we will make an effort to locate their names and to bring them to the commission soon.

Kahan: Good. With this we will conclude the open session. As for the continuation of your testimony, I suggest we do this today at 16:00 hours.

Sharon: Thank you.

Kahan: We will continue at 16:00 hours, and this time not in open session.

ALGERIA

PLO OFFICIALS ARRIVE FOR TALKS 2 NOVEMBER

LD022024 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian forces, arrived in Algiers this evening. He was accompanied by the member of the Fatah Central Committee, Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid]. The Palestinian delegation will hold talks with officials of the FLN. They were met at Houari Boumediene International Airport by the official in charge of the Department for Relations With Parties, the head of the Department for Liberatio : Movements and the PLO representative in Algiers.

LIBYA

AL-'UBAYDI TALKS TO AFRICAN ENVOYS ON OAU SUMMIT

LD021456 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] The brother secretary of the People's Committee for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, Al-'Ubaydi, met this afternoon with ambassadors of the sister and friendly African states. The brother secretary informed the African ambassador that the date for convening the 19th African summit conference in Tripoli will be 23-26 November. The summit will be preceded by a meeting of foreign ministers of African states to be held 15-22 November.

He said that serious efforts were made during last August to convene the 19th session of the conference. However, some problems prevented the meeting. The brother secretary added: As a result of the will of Africa, its peoples, its governments and presidents, it has been decided to convene the summit conference in Tripoli. This is due to the relentless and fruitful efforts exerted by some African presidents who care for African unity and who want the Organization of African Unity to continue to fulfill its role and its work, despite the invisible and visible currents of forces hostile to Africa.

The secretary informed the African ambassadors that the brother leader and the secretariat of the organization have invited African presidents to attend the conference.

HUNGARIAN DEFENSE MINISTER LEAVES TRIPOLI

LD021620 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Tripoli, 2 Nov (JANA) -- Hungarian Defense Minister Lajos Czinege and his delegation left Tripoli this afternoon.

Brig Gen Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, was at the airport to see the guest off. Also at the airport were a number of Libyan Armed Forces personnel and staff of the Hungarian Embassy.

TUNISIA

FOREIGN MINISTER ON STRATEGIES AGAINST ISRAEL

LD021720 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1532 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Excerpts] Tunis, 2 Nov (KUNA) -- Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi has called for an Arab people's war against Israel, to go side by side with Palestinian diplomacy in order to achieve the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

In a statement here to KUNA today and in reply to a question about whether Palestinian diplomacy is capable of replacing the Palestinian gun at present, he said: As far as we here in Tunisia are concerned, the plan proposed for the liberation of Palestine does not rule out political or military action.

Bourguiba's plan is misunderstood sometimes by those who do not want to understand it. This plan has a political basis together with the use of all the legitimate means of pressure in order to realize the political aim. He added: We believe that the military action is only one legitimate means of pressure. But our viewpoint in this respect is based on waging a long-term people's war and not a classical war, especially as the classical wars which the Arabs fought against Israel were a failure for us as a nation which sticks to mere defense and sometimes protective defense. He pointed out that the people's war which the Palestinian Resistance recently fought in Lebanon was shown that it is possible for us to inflict big losses and defeat on the enemy although this enemy is equipped with the most modern and destructive weapons. So we advocate the need to continue the people's war against the Zionist enemy, ensuring the strategic base [al-'umq] of the war just as Tunisia was the strategic base of the Algerian liberation war.

The Tunisian foreign minister described his U.S. counterpart, George Shultz, as an excellent listener and as possessing certain attributes which affect the person opposite him. Asked whether when he met Mr Shultz for the first time he sensed a U.S. desire to embark on some positive step to resolve the Middle East issue, Mr es-Sebsi said. Personally, I was pleased with that meeting, as it was my first with the new U.S. secretary of state. I found characteristics in the man that affected the man opposite him. The most prominent of these is the fact that he is a good listener. I attach great importance to a politician who knows how to listen to others.

I am pleased and also optimistic regarding the possibility of a clear U.S. change toward the legitimate rights of the Palestinians since the American people are beginning to understand these rights better. The United States is a democratic country; therefore, public opinion must have its impact on government policy.

Referring to recent reports in a Tunisian newspaper about the detention of some Tunisians in Beirut by the Lebanese Army, Mr es-Sebsi said: We have not been informed officially of the arrest of any Tunisians in Beirut. However, we have reopened our embassy in Beirut, and the embassy will make enquiries about our citizens since it is the duty of the state to protect its citizens wherever they are.

The Tunisian foreign minister described his country's relations with Algeria and Libya as good. He said the differences existing between Tunisia and both of the two Arab countries are on their way to being resolved. He denied the need for Arab mediation between his country and Algeria and Libya. He said, however, that he does not object to any non-Arab mediation.

Asked why Tunisia continues to maintain its position as a militarily weak country in North Africa, Mr es-Sebsi said that since independence Tunisia has been channelling all its efforts into raising the standard of living. It is no secret to say that more than 30 percent of its budget goes to education and to raising the standard of living. He added: Until recently, Tunisia never thought about directing its efforts toward military armament. However, this has been dictated by necessity since we find ourselves living in a region where Tunisia has been exposed to some attempts that compel us to strengthen our military defense.

Mr es-Sebsi stressed that Tunisia does not intend to attack anybody nor is it preparing a plan to confront any state. He said: We are trying now to obtain the minimum military force in order to foil the attempts of those who want to encroach on Tunisia's territorial, air or sea integrity, bearing in mind the fact that Tunisia tries to maintain good relations with all states, particularly its neighbors. It is no secret that since this government came into power, we have been attempting to improve relations with our brothers in Algeria and our brothers in Libya because we believe that regardless of differences, relations between brothers cannot in any circumstances lead to a clash but must be based on good-neighborliness and dialogue. This does not mean, however, that we always succeed in our efforts. We do not give up but continue our efforts and work in order to reach the noble aim.

I do not say that all our problems have been settled with some of our neighbors but we are still continuing the effort. Now we have good relations with Algeria; and we have taken considerable steps in the field of cooperation and of building a useful future in the interest of both sides. This does not mean that there are no clouds in the skies of our relations at times. This is the case with all peoples and all states, but we keep them under control.

The Tunisian foreign minister explained that his country is seeking to realize the unity of the greater Arab Maghreb.

Asked about Tunisia's attitude toward the Polisario which is trying to set up an independent republic in the disputed Sahara, Mr es-Sebsi said: We support the resolution on the right to self-determination for the people of the Sahara, the resolution which was adopted by the OAU summit held in Nairobi. We are trying also to settle all the disagreements existing between the various parties to the dispute.

BURUNDI

BAGAZA SPEAKS AT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OPENING

AB021135 Paris AFP in English 1111 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Bujumbura, Nov. 2 (AFP) -- Burundi's first National Assembly since 1966 started work today by debating its own standing orders, following an official opening of parliament by President Jean-Baptiste Bagaza on the 16th anniversary of the coup which brought him to power.

In his speech yesterday the president told the assembly members -- all of them belong to Burundi's sole political party, the Union for National Progress (UPRONA) -- that they were complementary to existing political institutions.

Colonel Bagaza recalled Burundi's particular difficulties, including increasing population, its landlocked situation and distance from foreign markets, the world recession and the decline in terms of trade.

He asked the assembly to work for the progress of the country and their constituencies, adding, "You are not just being asked to talk."

In a statement to the press after the ceremony, the president noted that the assembly was an important stage in the establishment of democratic institutions as laid down in the aims of the 1966 coup and the first UPRONA congress in December 1979.

After being elected assembly speaker (president), UPRONA Secretary General Emile Mworoha said that members would be examining all current legislation, including the 1983 national budget and the next five-year plan.

CHAD

FRANCE'S COT SIGNS AGREEMENT; ZAIRE PROMISES AID

AB021620 Paris AFP in English 1556 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Ndjamena, Nov. 2 (AFP) -- France has concluded a cooperation agreement with Chad totalling 1,000 million CFA francs (2.9 million dollars), during a two-day visit by French Foreign Aid Minister Jean-Pierre Cot, which ended today.

Mr. Cot said before he left the Chadian capital that "Franco-Chadian cooperation has taken off again, with no reservations."

He signed the agreement, which provides for 1.7 million dollars in working capital and 1.2 million dollars to restructure Chad's public administration, with Chadian Foreign Minister Idriss Miskine.

Mr. Cot said that the emergency aid, which will only cover the next few months, was "modest" but that France can only give what it has. He added that France will continue its efforts to the best of its ability to help the war-ravaged country in its recovery.

Mr. Cot said that France and Chad would attempt to mobilize aid internationally at the Geneva conference on the reconstruction of Chad, scheduled for the end of the month.

Turning to military cooperation between the two countries, he said that he had discussed "all the problems concerning security and stability of Chad and the region" in talks with the Chadian authorities.

Mr. Cot said that France agreed with Chad over the conditions of security and stability in the region, but did not give further details. He said that it was "necessary" for Chad to recover its stability.

Mr. Cot also had a second round of talks with Chadian President Hissein Habre today.

In Kinshasa, Zaire State Commissioner for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Yoka Mangono said Zaire would "certainly send its contribution, albeit modest, to the great reconstruction work in Chad."

Mr. Mangono made the announcement at the end of a five-day meeting of a Zairian-Chadian joint committee.

HABRE COMMENTS ON COT VISIT, TIES WITH LIBYA

AB021819 Paris AFP in French 1725 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Ndjamena, 2 Nov (AFP) -- President Hissein Habre has expressed satisfaction over the visit which French Minister of Cooperation and Development Jean-Pierre Cot has just made to Ndjamena. According to him, the visit shows France's interest in the "new development" that occurred in Chad, and it is the demonstration that Paris and Ndjamena are anxious to strengthen the "traditional relations" between the two countries.

The Chadian president told the press on Tuesday that France is doing more than other developed countries in terms of aid to the Third World.

With regard to defense cooperation between the two countries, Hissein Habre declined to confirm or deny whether Jean-Pierre Cot's visit made it possible to sign defense agreements. Chad can defend itself and "we have not asked France to do it for us," he declared.

The Chadian president also recalled the border dispute existing between Ndjamena and Tripoli, now occupying 150,000 square km of land in northern Chad. To keep that "important" part of the Chadian territory, Libya thinks it must sow disturbances and subversion in Chad, he said.

Hissein Habre said that contacts have been made with Libyan authorities with a view to settling peacefully the dispute between the two countries. But, he pointed out, these contacts have not progressed "much." He then wondered if Libya will want to leave the northern part of Chad after a negotiated settlement of the issue.

"Chad wants to be a free, independent and sovereign state within the borders it inherited from colonization. And this is what is between us and Libya," Mr Habre added.

The Chadian president believed that the setting up of "national salvation government" by former President Goukouni Oueddei last week in Bardai in northern Chad, was instigated by Libya. "If there is a government, it is only an instrument in the pay of an external power," he stated.

Finally, concerning an eventual visit to France, Mr Hissein Habre pointed out that the issue has not yet come up.

ZAIRE

ZAIRE-CHAD JOINT COMMISSION ENDS MEETING

AB021612 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1313 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Kinshasa, 2 Nov (AZAP) -- "Zaire has taken good note of Chad's problems and has promised to study quickly the way in which it can help its Chadian brothers," states the joint communique signed yesterday at the end of a long exchange of ideas and information between the delegates of the Zaire-Chad joint commission meeting on Chad's needs for its reconstruction.

The Chadian delegation to the deliberations, which were held in Kinshasa from 28 October to 1 November at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, was headed by Gouara Lassou, the minister of further education, research and scholarships. The Zairian side was headed by Yoka Mangono, commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation.

In his closing address, Yoka Mangono asserted that "Zaire, which remains faithful to its African commitment and everreadiness, will examine with great attention the needs of the Chadian people and will not fail to make its contribution, however, small, to the great task of the reconstruction of this brotherly country."

Zaire, which before the second republic experienced the same situation as Chad, the leader of the Zairian delegation said, is happy to see the people of Chad regain their peace and unity -- necessary conditions for a harmonious economic recovery. Zaire remains convinced that thanks to the foresight of Chadian head of state Hissein Habre and the perspicacity of the Chadian people, the Chadian reconstruction and development effort begun will undoubtedly be crowned with success, Yoka Mangono continued before stressing the atmosphere of frank collaboration and fraternal comprehension that prevailed during their discussions.

"It goes without saying," he said, "that this atmosphere responds to the wishes of the two heads of state, Hissein Habre and Mobutu Sese Seko, who, during their meeting at the time of the 9th conference of the heads of state of France and Africa in Kinshasa, decided on the meeting of Zairian and Chadian experts with the goal of reviving their bilateral cooperation."

The just-ended deliberations, he explained, fall within this framework of bilateral cooperation. They enabled us to enumerate the priority needs for the reconstruction of Chad which has just come out of a painful, fratricidal war.

Following is the full text of the joint communique issued at the end of the deliberations of the Zaire-Chad joint commission.

"At the invitation of the Executive Council of the Republic of Zaire, His Excellency Gouara Lassou, minister of higher education, research and scholarships, visited Kinshasa from 28 October to 1 November 1982 at the head of a Chadian Government delegation in order to examine the ways and means of strengthening cooperation between the republics of Chad and Zaire. To this end, he held discussions with Yoka Mangono, state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation and a member of the MPR Central Committee and leader of the Zairian delegation.

After a long exchange of ideas and information on the state of the needs listed by the Chadian side for the reconstruction of Chad, the Zairian side has taken good note of the situation and has promised to study quickly the ways and means it could give assistance to its Chadian brothers. During the visit, His Excellency Gouara Lassou was received in audience by Citizen Singa Udjuu Ongwa Untube, the first state commissioner. Furthermore, he held fruitful discussions with the state commissioners for higher education, public works and national defense.

The discussions between the two delegations were held in an atmosphere of fraternity marked with frankness and cordiality. The leader of the Chadian delegation thanked the Executive Council for the warm and fraternal welcome accorded the members of his delegation and himself during their stay.

Signed in Kinshasa on 1 November 1982

Signed for the Republic of Zaire by Yoka Mangono, state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation and a member of the Central Committee; for the Republic of Chad by Gouara Lassou, minister of higher education, research and scholarships.

LIBERIA

DOE ANNOUNCES 'MAJOR' CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT

AB021951 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] There have been major changes in government by the head of state CIC [commander in chief] Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, in close consultation with the People's Redemption Council [PRC]. In making the decision today, the Liberian leader said today's changes in the Cabinet and other areas of government are necessary to infuse new dynamism in government and improve general efficiency in the national affairs.

Those appointed were Cap James Burphy, minister of public works, Col Gray D. Allison, minister of national defense; Dr Peter Naigow, minister of information; Mr David Dwanyen, minister of commerce, industry and transportation; Capt. E. Sumo Jones, minister of labor; Maj Gen Albert E.S. Karpeh, general services manager, National Iron Ore Company; Mr Alhaji Koroma, director general, Liberia Broadcasting system; Mr Charles Johnson, managing director, Air Liberia.

In the Ministry of Public Works, Mr Nagana becomes deputy minister for technical services, succeeding Captain (Bersey), at the Liberia Telecommunications Corporation, Mr James Gaza becomes deputy managing director for administration, while Mr (Hawani Skai) becomes deputy managing director for technical services. Mr Michael (Waas) retains his position as deputy managing director of Air Liberia.

On the county level, the head of state today also appointed Lt Gen Franklin D. Smith as superintendent of Montserrado County, while Maj Samuel Davis is to report to the Defense Ministry for reassignment. Capt Samuel B. Taylor becomes superintendent of Sinoe County, while Maj David T. Nomo is to report to the Ministry of Defense for reassignment.

Meanwhile, the head of state has announced that all of the other ministers retain their positions, but he cautioned that ministers should rededicate themselves to the building of a new society in which all of our people can live peacefully and happily. The head of state, with the concurrence with the PRC, also announced the creation of a new Ministry of National Security with Mr (Patrick Minikoh) as the minister. The Liberian leader said the new ministry would be constituted by the merger of a number of security agencies, emphasizing that no additional expenses would be involved. He also noted that details of the new ministry would be formulated and announced later.

According to an Executive Mansion release, the Liberian leader stressed the determination of government to fight corruption at all levels; and he said if corruption cannot be minimized, the firing squad will be instituted for that crime. Meanwhile, the Liberian leader has directed the minister of defense to immediately transfer to Camp Belle Yella, the nine government officials and citizens charged with embezzling government money. The head of state spoke strongly against those who offer bribes, particularly businessmen and those who receive such bribes thus depriving government of much-needed revenue. He said any businessman caught in such acts would be dealt with according to law.

The commander in chief noted that while members of the clergy have been consistent in appealing for clemency they should instead adopt the practice of prayers for the good conduct of those entrusted with the affairs of government.

Meanwhile, the head of state designated the cochairman of the council, Maj Gen J. Nicholas Podier, to undertake a nationwide tour to acquaint the people with the government's determination to fight corruption in the Liberian society.

NIGERIA

SHAGARI VISITS MAIDUGURI, CALLS RIOTS 'MADNESS'

AB022002 Lagos NAN in English 1759 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Maiduguri, Nov 2 (NAN) -- The president, Alhaji Shehu Shagari today in Maiduguri described the current religious disturbances in the country as madness.

The president, who arrived in Maiduguri today to inspect the extent of damages caused by religious fanatics, assured that the Federal Government would aid the Borno government in its rehabilitation efforts.

He lamented that when the fanatics struck in Kano in 1980 it was thought to be the end of their activities, not knowing that there were still people who were out to cause trouble.

Alhaji Shehu said that measures would be taken to ensure that public peace was no longer disturbed by religious fanatics.

He further described those involved in such disturbance as neither belonging to the Moslem nor Christian sects.

The president congratulated the state government and the Borno police command for their efforts toward ensuring immediate peace and security.

Vows To 'Hunt Down' Rioters

AB022210 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] The Federal Government is taking positive measures to check any type of disturbance under the cover of religious fanaticism. This was announced in Maiduguri today by President Shehu Shagari after an inspection of the Bulunkutu area of the town, the scene of the recent religious disturbances. He said that security network had been stretched to many centers of the country to prevent any similar incidents in line with recent disturbances. He remarked that they could not claim to be Christians or Muslims because their activities could not be related to any civilized religion. He gave an assurance that such people and their leaders would be hunted down and dealt with ruthlessly. The Federal Government, he said, could not tolerate such acts of rebellion, adding that it would employ all resources at its disposal to deal with the threat to peace and security they had brought in their wake.

President Shagari stated that the Federal Government would participate actively in the rehabilitation of the victims of the disturbances. He called for the cooperation of all Nigerians in the exercise and expressed the nation's gratitude to the police, the public and all agencies for their efforts in bringing the situation under control.

The Shehu of Borno, Alhaji Umar ib El Kanemi, while welcoming the president to his palace, said that the disturbances were a big blow to Borno State and Nigeria in general. He requested for Federal Government financial assistance in aid of the victims.

A Radio Nigeria correspondent stated that the devastation done to Bulunkutu remained (?at present) with only 10 percent of normal activities restored.

Among the places visited by the president was the temporary rehabilitation center with nearly 2,000 people, most of whom were said to be aliens. The President also visited the hospital, where he symphathized with those wounded in the disturbances.

Maiduguri is one of the three towns affected by the recent disturbances. The other two are Kano and Kaduna.

ARMED POLICE REPORTED ON PATROL IN KANO

AB021531 Lagos NAN in English 1529 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Kano, Nov 2 (NAN) -- Armed policemen are still patrolling the streets of Sabon Gari in Kano following Saturday's incident in which demonstrating Muslim students burnt down some churches in protest against the existence of a church near a mosque in Fegge quarters.

According to a correspondent of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), the church was built in 1926 and the mosque in 1960.

The correspondent, who went round the city today, however reports that, although life was returning to normal, most schools were still closed, following an alleged threat of arson.

The state commissioner of police, Alhaji Sani Wali, in a statement yesterday said that the situation was under control and called on members of the public to go about their duties peacefully.

COMMITTEES TO INVESTIGATE PARDONS, RIOTS

AB021616 Lagos NAN in English 1558 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Lagos, Nov 2 (NAM) -- The House of Representatives today passed a motion directing its committees on internal and police affairs to investigate circumstances leading to the recent pardon granted to about 1,000 fanatics who took part in the "Maitatsine" religious riot of 1980.

The house also directed the committees to investigate the causes of the recent religious disturbances and urged the Federal Government to send relief materials urgently to the victims of the disturbances.

However, the house rejected a section of the motion seeking to commend the police force and other security agents for quelling the disturbances with "utmost despatch."

Debating the motion earlier, Alhaji Mohammed Kaugama, PRP [People's Redemption Party]-Kano, said that the disturbances showed that Nigeria was the target of religious fanatics from countries bordering it.

He said that the Kano police commissioner should be held responsible for the disturbances in the area, stating that the commissioner received earlier intelligence report about the riot.

Another member, Mr Sidi Ali, PRP-Kano, blamed the police for their lack of tact and operational intelligence in combating the fanatics.

However, Mr Nuhu Poloma, NPN [National Party of Nigeria]-Bauchi, said that the president should not be blamed for the disturbances.

ANGOLA

PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES END MEETING

AB021211 Luanda Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] The experts preparatory meeting for the ministerial conference of the African Portuguese-speaking countries, which began in Luanda on the 27th of October, ended its work yesterday. The closing ceremony was presided over by the Angolan minister of labor, Comrade Braz da Silva. A document released at the end of the session indicated that the delegations of the participating countries, namely Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde and Sao Tome and Principe, agreed on the necessity of jointly solving problems and contributing efforts toward the socioeconomic development of their respective countries.

They underlined the importance of holding the ministerial conference of the Portuguese-speaking African countries at the beginning of next year.

The participants of the preparatory meeting reiterated their total support to all progressive forces of the world in their struggle against imperialism and, at the same time, condemned racist South Africa's aggressions against the frontline states. They condemned racist South African illegal occupation of some parts of the Angolan territory and appealed to all international organizations to take urgent measures to ensure immediate and unconditional withdrawal of South African forces from the Angolan territory.

MAURITIUS

JUGNAUTH SAYS GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BREAK UP

AB021905 Paris AFP in French 1800 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Port Louis, 2 Nov (AFP) -- Mauritian Prime Minister Aneerood Jugnauth said on Tuesday that there will be no breaking up of the leftwing government coalition that came into power in June 1982. In a television broadcast to the nation, Mr Jugnauth said that "the coalition government must last," and that if there were ever a collapse, he would prefer asking the country to vote. I know how wrong it would be for the country to be asked to vote again," he added.

The prime minister also launched an appeal to Mauritians to help the government through the crisis currently shaking the country. Recalling the various stages of the political crisis, Mr Jugnauth said that "the crisis had no reason for existence. The Mauritian Militant Movement (MMM) has found itself in a dilemma and it would be unjust for the Mauritian Socialist Party (PSM) to bear the consequences".

He asserted that the differences with the PSM could be "overcome." The MMM parliamentarians voted for the collapse of the coalition government; but after careful thought, the prime minister decided to place the constitution of the country above that of the party," he said.

SOUTH AFRICA

REPORTS ON ANGOLAN PRISONER EXCHANGE CITED

MB021816 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1400 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Talks are continuing over an exchange of prisoners of war by Angola and South Africa. This has been confirmed in Lusaka by U.S. Embassy officials. Informed sources say the talks involve Angolan, Soviet and Cuban prisoners held by South Africa. They also involve an American pilot, two American mercenaries and the bodies of the three South African soldiers killed by the Angolans. No further details are available, but Zambia's home affairs minister says Lusaka has been chosen for the exchange.